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THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS  
OF THE  
*MINISTERS*  
OF THE  
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

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BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

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VOLUME FOURTH.

*"Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam."*  
CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.

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MDCC,XCII.



THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF  
SCOTLAND

DRAWN UP FROM THE COLLECTIONS

OF THE  
MAGISTRATES

OF THE

DISTRICT PARISHES

IN THE YEAR 1845

VOLUME FOURTH

By James Wilson, Esq.,  
Magistrate of Glasgow.

EDINBURGH:

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# C O N T E N T S.

| No.           | Name.           | Population in 1755. | in 1790-1. | Inc. | Dec. | Page. |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|------|------|-------|
| 1             | Lethnot, -      | 635                 | 505        | —    | 130  | 1     |
| 2             | Dumbarton, -    | 1427                | 2003       | 576  | —    | 21    |
| 3             | Tullynefsle, -  | 269                 | 396        | 127  | —    | 27    |
| 4             | Auchterarder, - | 1194                | 1670       | 476  | —    | 33    |
| 5             | Aberlemno, -    | 943                 | 1033       | 90   | —    | 47    |
| 6             | Drumblade, -    | 1125                | 886        | —    | 239  | 52    |
| 7             | Skene, -        | 1251                | 1233       | —    | 18   | 57    |
| 8             | Aberlour, -     | 1010                | 920        | —    | 90   | 64    |
| 9             | Roseneath, -    | 521                 | 394        | —    | 127  | 71    |
| 10            | Drainy, -       | 1174                | 1040       | —    | 134  | 77    |
| 11            | Arderfier, -    | 428                 | 1298       | 870  | —    | 88    |
| 12            | Tealing, -      | 735                 | 802        | 67   | —    | 92    |
| 13            | Dallas, -       | 700                 | 888        | 188  | —    | 105   |
| 14            | Kirkhill, -     | 1360                | 1570       | 210  | —    | 111   |
| 15            | Inverarity, -   | 996                 | 929        | —    | 67   | 124   |
| 16            | Duirinish, -    | 2568                | 3000       | 432  | —    | 130   |
| 17            | Kirkinner, -    | 792                 | 1152       | 360  | —    | 138   |
| 18            | Rattray, -      | 751                 | 500        | —    | 251  | 148   |
| 19            | Ardclach, -     | 1163                | 1186       | 23   | —    | 151   |
| 20            | Udny, -         | 1322                | 1137       | —    | 185  | 156   |
| 21            | Ormistoun, -    | 810                 | 864        | 54   | —    | 166   |
| 22            | Cushnie, -      | 500                 | 430        | —    | 70   | 173   |
| 23            | Rynd, -         | 498                 | 495        | —    | 3    | 178   |
| 24            | Abbot's Hall, - | 1348                | 2136       | 788  | —    | 185   |
| 25            | Inchture, -     | 893                 | 1000       | 107  | —    | 191   |
| 26            | Hutton, -       | 751                 | 920        | 169  | —    | 196   |
| 27            | Kilspindie, -   | 828                 | 718        | —    | 110  | 202   |
| 28            | Strickathrow, - | 529                 | 672        | 143  | —    | 209   |
| 29            | Johnston, -     | 494                 | 565        | 71   | —    | 216   |
| 30            | Crieck, -       | 375                 | 306        | —    | 69   | 227   |
| 31            | Dunbog, -       | 255                 | 235        | —    | 20   | 233   |
| 32            | Barrie, -       | 689                 | 796        | 107  | —    | 236   |
| 33            | Earlstoun, -    | 1197                | 1351       | 154  | —    | 248   |
| Carried over, |                 | 29531               | 33030      | 5012 | 1513 |       |



## C O N T E N T S.

| No. | Name.                            | Population in 1755. | in 1790-1. | Inc. | Dec. | Page. |
|-----|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------|------|------|-------|
|     | Brought over,                    | 29531               | 33030      | 5012 | 1513 |       |
| 34  | Kingbarns, -                     | 871                 | 807        | —    | 64   | 254   |
| 35  | Kells, -                         | 784                 | 869        | 85   | —    | 259   |
| 36  | Kilmalcolm, -                    | 1495                | 951        | —    | 544  | 274   |
| 37  | Dreghorn, -                      | 887                 | 830        | —    | 57   | 280   |
| 38  | Bolton, -                        | 359                 | 235        | —    | 124  | 285   |
| 39  | Fearn, -                         | 1898                | 1600       | —    | 298  | 288   |
| 40  | Knockandow, -                    | 1267                | 1500       | 233  | —    | 302   |
| 41  | Dalrymple, -                     | 439                 | 380        | —    | 59   | 305   |
| 42  | Duthil and Rothie-<br>murchus, - | 1785                | 1110       | —    | 675  | 308   |
| 43  | Methlick, -                      | 1385                | 1035       | —    | 350  | 320   |
| 44  | Kilbucho, -                      | 279                 | 362        | 83   | —    | 324   |
| 45  | Aberdour, -                      | 1198                | 1280       | 82   | —    | 327   |
| 46  | Kilmadan, -                      | 806                 | 351        | —    | 455  | 338   |
| 47  | Monikie, -                       | 1345                | 1278       | —    | 67   | 343   |
| 48  | Calder, -                        | 882                 | 1062*      | 180  | —    | 349   |
| 49  | Deskford, -                      | 940                 | 752        | —    | 188  | 358   |
| 50  | Pittenweem, -                    | 939                 | 1157       | 218  | —    | 369   |
| 51  | Dunse, -                         | 2593                | 3324       | 731  | —    | 378   |
| 52  | Alvah, -                         | 1161                | 1070       | —    | 91   | 393   |
| 53  | Strathmiglo, -                   | 1095                | 980        | —    | 115  | 400   |
| 54  | Row, -                           | 853                 | 1000       | 147  | —    | 405   |
| 55  | Coldstream †, -                  | 1493                | 2521       | 1028 | —    | 410   |
| 56  | Logie Buchan, -                  | 575                 | 538        | —    | 37   | 421   |
| 57  | Glenholm, -                      | 392                 | 300        | —    | 92   | 429   |
| 58  | Falkland, -                      | 1795                | 2198       | 403  | —    | 437   |
| 59  | Banchory Davinick                | 1495                | 1700       | 205  | —    | 450   |
| 60  | Durisddeer, -                    | 1019                | 1031       | 12   | —    | 457   |
| 61  | Torphichen, -                    | 1295                | 1069       | —    | 226  | 465   |
|     | Carried over,                    | 60856               | 64320      | 8419 | 4955 |       |

\* Mr Grant having only stated the number of examinable persons, a proportional addition is here made for children under that age, at the rate of  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

† A similar addition is made to Dr Bell's report of this parish, whose examination roll was made up in 1785-6.



# C O N T E N T S.

vii

| No. | Name.               | Population in 1755. | in 1790-1. | Inc.  | Dec. | Page. |
|-----|---------------------|---------------------|------------|-------|------|-------|
|     | Brought over,       | 60856               | 64320      | 8419  | 4955 |       |
| 62  | Loggie Easter, -    | 850                 | 1125*      | 275   | —    | 472   |
| 63  | Errol, -            | 2229                | 2685       | 456   | —    | 480   |
| 64  | Fordoun, -          | 1890                | 2258       | 368   | —    | 494   |
| 65  | Kinglassie, -       | 998                 | 1200       | 202   | —    | 501   |
| 66  | Crawford, -         | 2009                | 1490       | —     | 519  | 505   |
| 67  | Kirkpatrick-Juxta,  | 794                 | 617        | —     | 177  | 517   |
| 68  | Kirkpatrick - Iron- |                     |            |       |      |       |
|     | gray, -             | 895                 | 762*       | —     | 133  | 525   |
| 69  | Largo, -            | 1396                | 1913       | 517   | —    | 534   |
| 70  | Towie, -            | 656                 | 550        | —     | 106  | 547   |
| 71  | Strachur and Stra-  |                     |            |       |      |       |
|     | lachlan, -          | 1193                | 1061       | —     | 132  | 555   |
|     | Total,              | 73766               | 77981      | 10237 | 6022 |       |
|     | Population in 1755, |                     | 73766      | 6022  |      |       |
|     | Increase, -         |                     | 4215       | 4215  |      |       |

\* The usual proportion for children under 8, is also added to the returns from these parishes.

STATIS.



# C O N T E N T S

| No. | Name               | Population in 1735 | Population in 1790 | Population in 1850 | Population in 1900 |
|-----|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1   | Unincorporated     | 445                | 1057               | 7581               | 1057               |
| 2   | Town               | 7370               | 1057               | 7581               | 1057               |
| 3   | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 4   | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 5   | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 6   | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 7   | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 8   | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 9   | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 10  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 11  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 12  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 13  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 14  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 15  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 16  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 17  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 18  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 19  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 20  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 21  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 22  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 23  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 24  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 25  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 26  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 27  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 28  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 29  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 30  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 31  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 32  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 33  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 34  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 35  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 36  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 37  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 38  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 39  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 40  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 41  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 42  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 43  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 44  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 45  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 46  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 47  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 48  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 49  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 50  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 51  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 52  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 53  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 54  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 55  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 56  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 57  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 58  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 59  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 60  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 61  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 62  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 63  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 64  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 65  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 66  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 67  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 68  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 69  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 70  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 71  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 72  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 73  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 74  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 75  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 76  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 77  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 78  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 79  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 80  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 81  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 82  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 83  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 84  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 85  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 86  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 87  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 88  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 89  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 90  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 91  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 92  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 93  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 94  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 95  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 96  | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 97  | Population in 1850 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 98  | Population in 1900 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 99  | Population in 1735 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 100 | Population in 1790 |                    |                    |                    |                    |

The total population in children under 8, is also added to the returns from these parishes.

## S T A T I S

The population of the parish of St. Andrew, in the year 1735, was 445. In the year 1790, it was 1057. In the year 1850, it was 7581. In the year 1900, it was 1057. The population of the parish of St. Andrew, in the year 1735, was 445. In the year 1790, it was 1057. In the year 1850, it was 7581. In the year 1900, it was 1057. The population of the parish of St. Andrew, in the year 1735, was 445. In the year 1790, it was 1057. In the year 1850, it was 7581. In the year 1900, it was 1057.



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# STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

O F

# SCOTLAND.

## PART IV.

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### NUMBER I.

### PARISH OF LETHNOT.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN TAYLOR.*

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#### *Annexation and Situation.*

THE parishes of Navar and Lethnot, prior to the year 1723, were two separate charges: Before their union, the parish of Lochlee and Lethnot were one charge. The minister resided at Lethnot, and preached two sabbaths at Lethnot, and the third at Lochlee. But, as Lochlee is distant from Lethnot ten computed miles, and as the road was found always inconvenient, and often dangerous, especially in winter, it was judged proper by all concerned about the year 1723, to disjoin Lochlee from Lethnot, to make the



former a separate charge, and to annex Navar to the latter. Navar and Lethnot, thus united, lie in the county of Forfar, the presbytery of Brechin, and the synod of Angus and Mearns. They are surrounded by the Grampian hills on all sides, except towards the east, where there is a small opening, through which the West-water issues, and the plain of the Mearns is seen. The only part of the Grampians, that lies to the south of them, is the hill of Caterthun, remarkable for having on its top the remains of a very ancient fortification. Opposite to Caterthun, which is the highest top of a long ridge, running nearly from east by north to west by south, are the Grampians on the north, nearly in a parallel direction to the long ridge of Caterthun, but much higher. Along the bottom of these, Navar and Lethnot are situated, the breadth of the arable land from the bottom of Caterthun on the south to the uncultivated parts of the higher Grampians on the north, being nearly 3-4ths of a mile all along, and the length about 5 miles. Lethnot, which lies eastward, is bounded on that quarter by the parish of Edzel, and part of the parish of Stricathrow, on the south-east and south by the eastern part of the ridge of Caterthun, which separates it from the parish of Menmuir; on the west by the West-water, which separates it from Navar; and on the north, by that part of the Grampians, called the *hill of Wirran*, or *the hill of springs*, (as the word Wirran is said to signify,) which separates it from the parish of Lochlee. Navar is bounded on the south and south west by the western part of the ridge of Caterthun, which divides it from Menmuir; on the west it is separated from the Glens of Fern, Tannadice, Cortachy and Clova, by a great extent of the Grampian mountains; and towards the north, others of these mountains divide it from the parish of Lochlee. But besides that part of the parishes, which is situated as above described, there is a considerable number of small farms,



farms, which lie scattered on the West-water and other small rivulets, extending a good way among the hills in a north-west direction from the church of Lethnot, the most distant being upwards of five miles from it.

*Soil, Marl, &c.*—The soil in both parishes is various, some of it is of a clay nature, some a rich loam with a till bottom, and there is some haugh ground adjacent to the West-water with a sandy bottom. The ancient name of the West-water was Dy; it has its source among the hills about twelve miles north-west from the church of Lethnot, and it receives in its progress a great number of rapid rivulets. There are appearances of unshapely rocks here and there on its banks, and at one place there is found limestone of a reddish sandy nature, mixed with veins of freestone. The farmers quarry the limestone, and find it to answer well with their lands. But there is no freestone quarry within the parishes, and though some of the rocks, which seem in general to be composed of what is commonly called *scurdy stone*, might answer for building, yet there is no quarry of them opened for that purpose. There is in the hill of Wirran, a species of rock of a bluish colour, and of a very fine texture, very like to that of the small blue slates, from which the farmers quarry lintels for doors and windows. They can have these pieces almost of any length and breadth they please; but as the rock is at some distance, it is seldom wrought. What is of greater consequence to some of the farms of the parishes is a vein of clay or rock marl, which runs from the east end of Lethnot to the west of Navar, in a line nearly east by north to west by south. This vein extends beyond the boundaries of the parishes. It is found on the lands of Balfour at the distance of five miles east, and it is found a little north of the House of Fasque, the seat of Sir Alexander Ramsay, at the distance of seven miles from  
this



this place. A great quantity, no less than 300 of our cart-loads are necessary to manure an acre. But when it is put on in sufficient quantity, it is far preferable to lime, its virtue remaining for many years. It is of different colours, some bluish, and some purplish mixed with veins of a cream colour. It effervesces, like limestone, with aqua fortis, and answers best with thin dry land. However it can be of use to the adjoining farms only, because with respect to those at the distance of a mile or two from the pit, the expence and labour would exceed the profit. It is found at six, eight, and in some places ten feet below the surface. It is laid on ley and spread in summer, and continues to incorporate with the surface during the winter-rains and frost, and the field is broken up in spring for oats.

*Mineral springs.*—There is a great number of mineral springs within the parishes, all of a chalybeate nature; some of them are strong, and prove beneficial in complaints of the stomach and gravel. People of the neighbourhood frequently visit them; but there is no resort to them by persons at a distance, though it is believed they would prove as salutary in some complaints as the wells of Pananach, which are in high repute.

*Fish.*—In most of the small rivulets, which fall into the West-water, there is trout of the common kind; and in the West-water itself, there are three species of fresh water trout; 1<sup>st</sup>, Those of the common kind about eight or nine inches long; 2<sup>dly</sup>, The yellowish trout considerably larger; and 3<sup>dly</sup>, A species of trout called *Par*, about the size of a common burn trout, with a small head, and sides beautifully clouded. Besides the above kinds, there are also sea-trouts, which come up from the sea in May, from one to two pounds weight. There is likewise plenty of smouts,

(as



(as they are commonly called) or smelts, which are a slender clear-skinned species of trout about eight or nine inches long : They are supposed by some to be young sea-trout, but their flesh is white, whereas that of the sea-trout is reddish like salmon.

*Distempers.*—On account of our being surrounded by high hills, we are exposed to frequent and strong gusts of wind, by which the atmosphere is kept pure and healthy. The distempers most prevalent are inflammatory and pleurisy fevers, owing to the frequent and sudden changes of the weather, and to the peoples being exposed to hard exercise, wet clothes, and a sudden stopping of the perspiration. There is a distemper, called by the country-people the *leaping ague*, and by physicians, *St Vitus's dance*, which has prevailed occasionally for upwards of 60 years in these parishes, and some of the neighbouring ones. The patient first complains of a pain in the head, and in the lower part of the back ; to this succeed convulsive fits, or fits of dancing at certain periods. This disease appears to be hereditary in some families. When the fit of dancing, leaping or running seizes the patient, nothing tends more to abate the violence of the disease, than the allowing him free scope to exercise himself in this manner till nature be exhausted. Another distemper, with which the constitution of some families here is tainted, is the scrofula or king's evil, owing very probably to cold, and to a poor aliment. But in general the climate seems favourable to longevity. Within these last 16 years, four persons have died, who were above 90 ; one of them was 106.

*Population.*—Dr Webster's state of the population about 40 years ago was 635 souls. The number of people has decreased considerably within these last 20 years. In 1777 and 1778, the  
number



number was 555, of whom 268 were males, 287 were females, 65 were under six years of age, 99 were under 10 years, 50 were Nonjurors, and 2 were Bereans. But in 1790, the number was only 505, of which 256 were males, 249 were females, 62 were under six, and 98 under ten. There are at present six tailors, seven weavers, two smiths, and two wrights, within the parishes. In 1790, the number of Nonjurors, or more properly now, Episcopalians, was 56. The cause of the diminution of the number of people is, that in no less than six cases, two farms have, within these fourteen years, been joined into one. Besides the number of subtenants is also considerably diminished. There were sixteen houses, then inhabited by subtenants, which are now ruinous. In some cases, the possessors, being old people, died out; and in others, the farmers chose to have their possession of land in their own hand, because they could turn it to more advantage; besides they wished to lessen the number of their subtenants, because they found it inconvenient to lead fuel to them, and to perform other stipulated services. The diminishing of the number of subtenants and the uniting of farms, it is presumed, is an evil not peculiar to this corner. The consequence is, that there is, and has been for some time, a great difficulty in procuring servants.

*Births,*



*of Lethnot.*

*Births, Marriages and Burials for the last ten Years.*

|                  | Male<br>Births. | Fem.<br>Births. | Mar.            | Bur.            |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| In the year 1781 | 9               | 5               | 5               | 11              |
| 1782             | 10              | 5               | 6               | 9               |
| 1783             | 9               | 6               | 10              | 7               |
| 1784             | 9               | 4               | 4               | 9               |
| 1785             | 9               | 6               | 2               | 6               |
| 1786             | 6               | 9               | 7               | 12              |
| 1787             | 5               | 4               | 7               | 7               |
| 1788             | 11              | 6               | 3               | 8               |
| 1789             | 3               | 5               | 5               | 7               |
| 1790             | 8               | 6               | 8               | 12              |
| Sums             | 79              | 56              | 57              | 88              |
| Yearly average   | $7\frac{2}{10}$ | $5\frac{6}{10}$ | $5\frac{7}{10}$ | $8\frac{8}{10}$ |

In the year 1778, there were 119 inhabited houses; but in 1790, the number was only 103. The number of married persons or couples in 1778, was 85; in 1790, the number was 74. There were 15 bachelors, widowers included, keeping houses by themselves, and for the most part old men, in the year 1778. The number of persons of the same description in the year 1790 was 13. As to the number of children produced by marriages, there are many instances here, when young people marry, and are in easy circumstances, of their having eight children; many where there are ten children, and some where there are thirteen. But when people advanced in life marry, the number of children is two or three, and sometimes none. Many of our young people remove from the parishes, but not for want of employment. They get higher wages to the southward, and some remove for the sake of learning, a particular trade  
or



or art, as their genius leads them. None have perished from want, since the end of the last century, when there were seven years of general scarcity, and when some persons were found dead with cabbage, kail-roots, &c. in their mouths.

*Sheep.*—The number of sheep is about 6770, of lambs 1256. But as a great number of lambs perish through the weakness of the ewes, owing to severe winters and springs, there are brought annually from the southern counties about 678, part of them lambs, but for the most part year-olds, because these last stand the winter better. Hence the annual increase arising from lambs produced at home, and from those brought from the south, is about 1934. But of these generally one third is destroyed, before they come to full maturity, some by foxes, some by severe winters and springs, some are amissing, and many are cut off by a disease, which is here called *the Braxes*. Hence it happens, that the sale of old sheep annually amounts only to 2-3ds of 1934, that is 1289. The south country, or what is here called the *Yarrow brood*, are of a larger size than the native kind, and bring a higher price from the butcher; but their wool is much coarser. There is now such a mixture of the two breeds, that hardly any of the native kind are to be found pure. The wool of the native kind, several years ago, used to sell at 1 s. 3 d. *per lb.*, and at present it easily brings that price, when pure; while that of the *Yarrow* breed brings only 10 d. or 11 d. The pound consists of 24 ounces English. Many of our farmers begin to think that they would have acted more wisely, had they encouraged their own native breed: for they find, in the *first* place, that the *Yarrow* breed requires much more pasture; *2dly*, That they do not stand the winter so well; and, *3dly*, That their wool is of a much coarser quality. A wedder  
of



of the native breed when full grown, sells at 10s. 6d. or 11s. and the Yarrow kind brings 14 or 15s. It is observed here, that the nature of the sheep's pasture greatly affects the wool. A farm where there is much wet marshy ground, and that rough kind of grass which grows on such ground, always produces coarse wool.

The finest wool is produced, where the sheep have young tender heath, and short sweet grass to feed upon.

The disease formerly mentioned under the name of *Braxes*, in this place, proves fatal to many of the young sheep. It seizes them towards the end of harvest, when they are in best condition, and the most thriving are cut off by it. When their bodies are opened, the blood is found extravasated in their bowels, and in a putrid state. It appears to be infectious; for when the disease begins, numbers perish, and they are cut off by a short illness. No method is found so effectual for stopping the progress of the malady, as removing the sheep to a pasture at some distance. When the young sheep are carried to a distant pasture, it is some time before they become acquainted with it, so that for a few days at least, they must be but half-fed. This consideration induced an ingenious man in a neighbouring parish, to confine his young sheep a good part of every day within their pens, at the time when the *Braxes* began to make its appearance, that they might be prevented from filling their stomachs, when attacked by it, and this precaution had the desired effect in saving their lives. There are others who say, that they have tried this precaution without success.

*Horses and black cattle.*—The number of horses within the parishes is 147: many of them are of a small size, only a little larger than the Shetland breed. The number of black cattle is 601. The number of calves reared annually is



is about 130; but besides these, there are between two and three dozen fed for the butcher.

*Heritors, farms, &c.*—The heritors of Navar and Lethnot, are three in number, none of whom reside. The valued rent is L. 1031 : 13 : 9 Scots : The real rent is about L. 410 Sterling. The proprietor of the greatest estate gave leases (a little after 1760) to all the tenants in the lower part of the parishes for two nineteen years and a life; and for one nineteen and a life, to those in the upper or more hilly part of the estate, obliging the tenants to carry on certain pieces of improvement specified in their leases. They became obliged to build substantial houses on their respective farms, to inclose a certain portion of the farm, to bring in and improve baulks, and such pieces of waste ground as were fit for improvement, and to plant an acre, or half an acre, according to the size of the farm, of young trees in some convenient place, and to keep a sufficient fence around them till grown up. Some of the tenants have completely fulfilled these stipulations. All the farms are set upon moderate terms, some at 7 s. *per* acre, some at 5 s. and some as low as 2 s. 4 d. Their size is very various; some consist of 30 acres, some of 50, some of 80; there is one of 100 acres, and another of 160. The rent of those farms which lie in the lower part of the parishes, is made to rise at the end of every nineteen years of the lease. Thus the farm of 160 acres, which paid L. 33, for the first nineteen, pays now yearly during the currency of the second nineteen L. 39, and is bound to pay for the first nineteen of the life L. 45.

All the tenants have already increased the value of their farms very considerably by improvements, and by bringing waste ground into cultivation: But there is still a good deal of waste ground on most of the farms, which will require the industry of many years fully to improve. Most of the larger farms consist of what was formerly two farms.

*Agriculture.*



*Agriculture.*—The number of acres arable, may be estimated at 1200. Of these about 400 are allotted to oats, 200 for Chester bear, 30 for pease, about an equal number for turnips, potatoes and cabbage; all the rest lie in grass, about 144 acres being sown with red clover, white clover, and rye-grass. The number of ploughs is 28; but about 30 or 40 years ago, the number was upwards of 40. The cause of the decrease is, that in many instances, two farms have been joined into one since that period, and besides, in the hilly part of the parishes, several farms which were formerly in cultivation, are at present lying in grass, and meant to be kept in that state, as pasture for cattle and sheep. Twenty-eight ploughs, indeed, are more than sufficient for all the labour; tho' on the larger farms there is work enough for the ploughs employed. On a small farm of 18 or 20 acres, one plough of four small horses is more than enough; so that the uniting of small farms, which lie contiguous, may be sometimes considered as a wise plan, and as tending to the advantage of the country, at least in respect of the landlord.

Within these last 30 years, the art of farming is greatly improved in this place. It is only about 20 years ago, that the farmers began to clean their land by sowing turnip, and to sow grass seeds. Since that period there has been a great spirit of industry and improvement. As lime answers well with their land, they have been in the practice for several years of bringing it from a great distance. Some of them bring it at least 12 statute miles. Hence the quantity of grain produced at present is far greater than what was produced 30 years ago. At present the parishes can spare annually, at an average, about 500 bolls, part in oats and oatmeal; but the greatest part, bear in grain, which is carried to Brechin and Montrose. The beginning of our seed-time here is very various, owing to the spring snow lying long near the bottom of the hills. Generally we begin to sow oats  
before



before the middle of March, and bear about the middle of April. In the years 1782, 1785, 1788, and 1789, April was begun, and the first eight days of it near gone, before there was any sowing here. But in 1787, 1790, and 1791, some of our farmers began to sow pease and oats in February, and all of them in the first and second week of March. The beginning of harvest here is also various. Generally it begins about the first or second week of September, and is finished before the first of November, and all the corns got in. But in the year 1782, there was no reaping till the 3d of October, and it was the 20th of November before all the corns were got in. Crop 1782 in this place, as in the greatest part of the kingdom, turned out very unproductive. The snow and frost came on before the corns were ripened. However, with what the people had reserved of the former crop, and with the scanty supply which crop 1782 afforded, they were able to subsist till crop 1783 came in aid, without seeking any assistance from abroad; or at least, if a small portion of meal was brought from Montrose, and some bolls of seed-oats bought, there was more fold out of the parishes, to people who came from Dee side, and other places. It is the practice of many in these parishes to have their ginals or meal-chests always pretty full, that they may be prepared against a bad crop. Experience has taught them this precaution, because the harvests here are often precarious, and the corns suffer either by wind, or by the winter coming on before they are fully ripened. There is but little flax raised here. It does not generally ripen sufficiently, to tempt a farmer to risk many acres on its cultivation. Yet most of the farmers in the lower part of the parishes sow a peck or two for the use of their own families, and they reckon it a tolerable crop, if they have between two and three stone after the peck of lintseed. The stone

also well as sowed on the hills. Generally we begin to sow oats before



consists of 24 lb. English, or 22 lb. Amsterdam. There is no common pasture except the hills.

*Disadvantages.*—Among the disadvantages to which this place is exposed, may be reckoned a long continuance of snow in the spring, by which the operations of husbandry are interrupted, and the seed-time retarded; and on this account, our corns are but seldom so well ripened as those in the low country. While good oats in the low country yield sixteen pecks of meal *per* boll, we reckon them good here, if they yield fifteen. The winters here are always more severe than in the low country, and our farmers are often interrupted in their operations by storms, while those to the southward of the hills can plow and cart. Besides they frequently suffer very considerably in severe winters and springs by the loss of sheep and lambs. Our distance from Brechin, which is the nearest market-town being five computed miles, and the road across the steep hill of Caterthun, often rendered impassable for horses by the snow, may be reckoned another disadvantage under which this country labours.

*Stipend, &c.*—The stipend is L. 51, 19 s. Sterling, and 16 bolls oatmeal. The glebe may be estimated now at five guineas yearly. The church is probably two or three hundred years old. It was covered with lead until the year 1742, and then slated. A minister of the parish, so many years ago, that neither his name nor the period of his incumbency is remembered, lived and died a bachelor, and having money, he bequeathed it to cover the church with lead. It is said, that his body lies interred in a stone coffin in the east end of the church. As to the manse, it is but a modern edifice. It was built about the 1723. The King is patron of the parish.

*School.*



*School.*—There are two schools within the parishes; the established school, and another founded on private donation. The parish schoolmaster's living consists of 100 merks Scots, paid by the heritors and tenants, fees for baptisms, marriages, and school-fees, and may be estimated at L. 11 or L. 12. For a few months in winter, the number of scholars is sometimes above 40, but through the spring and summer, only about a dozen attend the school. Reading, writing, and arithmetic, are the only branches taught. The other school, which is fixed on the West-water about four computed miles from the former, is kept only during the winter half-year. This school was first erected about 1750, and a fund of 500 merks Scots, appointed for supporting a teacher, which fund, about two years ago, received an addition of L. 20 Sterling.

*Poor.*—Our number of poor at present is eight. They are supplied by our Sabbath-collections, and the interest of a fund of L. 460, a provision abundantly sufficient to answer all reasonable demands. Our weekly collections have been continuing to rise gradually for some years. Our funds being so considerable, we judged it improper to apply for any of the Government's bounty in 1783. About 50 years ago, it was common for upwards of 20 young people belonging to the parishes to go a-begging in the winter-season for want of employment and support; whereas at present the farmers find it very difficult to procure either at home, or from a distance, a sufficiency of young people to serve them. There is not a person belonging to these parishes permitted at present to go a-begging.

*Prices.*—The price of an ox, 40 or 50 years ago, was L. 2, 10; such an ox would now sell at L. 6, 15. An old ewe sold formerly at 1s. 1d.; such an ewe would now sell



fell at 4s. 6d. or 5s. A good wedder sold formerly at 3s. 6d. or 4s.; such a wedder would now give 11s. Mutton and beef sold formerly at 1d. *per lb.*; it now sells at 4d. Sheep were formerly cotted or lodged in a house summer and winter, a mode of treatment much against their prosperity. Cattle were formerly fed on bear-chaff and bear-shag, by which is meant the refuse of the bear which did not stand the wind; at present they are fed on turnips, hay and sheaves of short oats. A good hen sold formerly at 4d.; such a hen would at present bring 10d. Butter sold formerly at 4d. *per lb.*; it now brings 9d. The pound here is 22 oz. Amsterdam, or 24 oz. English. A stone of cheese weighing 22 lb. Amsterdam, or 24 lb. English, sold formerly at 3s.; it now brings 5s. and 5s. 6d. A boll of oats with fodder sold formerly at 11s. 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ d.; it now sells at 15s. A boll of bear in grain sold formerly at 7s.; it now sells at 13s. A boll of oat meal sold formerly at 8s. 4d.; (during the years of scarcity indeed, in the end of the last century, meal sold at 20d. *per peck*;) a boll of oat meal sells now at 13s. 4d. Our boll is 8 stone Amsterdam.

*Wages, &c.*—A labouring man's wages *per day* about 40 years ago, were 2d. and his meat; his wages at present are 6d. and his meat. The wages of a hireman, that is, a man-servant hired for the half year, capable to hold the plough, and work with horses, were formerly 16s. 8d.; such a man's wages now are L. 3, or L. 3, 10s. A maid-servant's wages formerly were, for the summer half year, 10s. with bounties, by which is meant, an ell of linen, an apron and a shirt: Her wages for the winter half year were 5s. with same bounties; the reason why her wages were higher in summer, was, because she reaped in harvest; a maid-servant's wages at present, for the summer half year, are



are L. 1, 5 s. with bounties of an ell of linen, apron and shirt, besides, she also stipulates for a week to herself, during which she goes to her parents house and works for herself, and is allowed a peck of meal for maintenance during that week. Her wages for the winter half year are L. 1, with same bounties, week and meal. A tailor's wages formerly were 2 d. and meat; they are now 6 d. and meat. A weaver formerly charged at the rate of 1 d. *per* ell, for weaving cloth of a certain species; he now charges 3 d. *per* ell for similar cloth. A pair of coarse shoes formerly cost 1 s.; such kind of shoes now sell at 3 s.

In this place, the common labourers, when married, have a small settlement from a farmer, of about one and an half, or two acres, sufficient to maintain two cows and 24 sheep; the farmer does all necessary work for the land, in way of tilling, harrowing, leading home the corns, and bringing a certain quantity of fuel from the hills. The subtenant is always bound to serve the farmer in harvest, and in the winter half year. The encouragement given him, upon the whole, is such as may enable him to bring up a family without assistance from the poors funds. Though he have a rising family of six children, the eldest under twelve, it would be thought strange here, while he, his wife and children were well, if he should desire any supply. When the scheme of the situation of the labouring poor in England is considered, there occurs only one case in which a supply would be judged necessary here. The case is where the woman is deserted by her husband, and left with six children, four of them being too young to earn any thing: It is to be observed that children in this place become useful at eight or nine years of age: During summer they are employed as herds by subtenants. Thus their parents are freed from the charge of their maintenance; besides they get a small fee of about 5 s. It is to be observed also, that a  
woman's



woman's work in this country turns to more account than it appears to do in England, and our mode of living is less expensive. Such a woman as is mentioned in the above case, could gain, in this country, in the way of spinning, about 18 d. a-week, and manage her family-concerns. The young girls in this country, by the time they are 13 or 14 years old, can spin 5 or 6 haps of yarn in the week: A woman that has nothing to interrupt her, spins about 12 haps; the price for spinning a haps is 3 d. Poor people here, instead of tea, sugar and butter, live commonly on pottage and milk. It is only old, infirm or diseased people, who are unable to work, and the ordinary poor, who receive support from the poors funds. As for tradesmen and artisans, they have small settlements from the farmers, of about 2 acres each: They are generally bound to reap in harvest, and for some days work in the busiest time of summer. Upon the whole, by the accommodation of their small settlements, and the profits of their occupations, they are enabled to live comfortably, and to bring up families. The lower class of people here, as well as those above them, are, in general, sober, industrious and frugal; and but few of them fail in early life to make provision for the infirmities of old age.

*Antiquities, &c.*—The remains of what is supposed to have been a Druidical temple, still appear near the bottom of the hill of Wirran in Lethnot, and it is said that there were formerly to be seen, the remains of other two in Navar. Though at present there is but very little wood in the parishes, it is plain that there must have been a good deal long ago, because in many places where peats



are found, large trunks of black oak are also discovered.

*Eminent Persons.*—Among those worthy of being mentioned, James Black deserves a place. This man, born in 1677, though his station was originally mean, raised himself by his prudence and industry, and did more service to his country than many of high rank and opulent fortunes. During his life he procured the building of the Gannachy bridge on the North Esk, and contributed almost all the money that was necessary for that purpose; a bridge which at this day could not be built for less than L. 160; and at his death he left 50 merks Scots as a fund for its support, besides 1000 merks, for other useful and pious purposes, *viz.* 300 merks towards building a bridge at Balrownie, on the road that leads from this place to Brechin; as also 200 merks for the poor in the parish of Fettercairn, and 500 merks for supporting a school in the West-water, which has been already mentioned. On his tomb-stone the following inscription is engraved.

No bridge on earth can be a pass to heaven,  
To generous deeds let yet due praise be given.

*Fuel.*—The general fuel of the parishes is turf, peat and heath. The providing of fuel here, is a work of great expence and labour, on account of the steepness of the hills, and the distance of the mossy ground. Many of the farmers, and many also of the subtenants find it expedient to bring yearly a few coals from the port of Montrose, distant 10 computed miles, which may be reckoned equal to 15 statute miles. The boll there, weighing  
ing.



ing 70 stone Amsterdam, costs about 8s. On account of the high custom-house duty at Montrose, our people go sometimes to Arbroath, which is at least 4 statute miles farther distant, where the coals are sold from 18d. to 2s. cheaper the boll. It is surely partial, and therefore impolitic, to make the duty on coals higher at Montrose than at Arbroath.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The roads within the parishes, though greatly improved within these last 20 years, are still but indifferent. The people are very sensible of the advantage of good roads; this indeed may be always expected to be the case, where a spirit of industry and improvement prevails. The statute-labour is exacted and allotted to roads within the parishes, and sometimes to that great road without the parishes, which leads to Brechin. There are no turnpike roads within the parishes. There are no less than 7 bridges within the parishes, 2 of them of about 50 feet span each. There does not seem any occasion for more.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Within these last 50 years, a great alteration has taken place in the manners, dress, and way of living of the people in this place. About 50 or 60 years ago, there was neither a spinning wheel nor a reel within the parishes. The rock and the spindle were then used, by which a woman could spin at an average only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hiers in the day. They used then also, what was called the hand-reel, a machine equally slow for work. A woman can with as much ease at this day, spin 12 hiers, as a woman could have spun  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hiers then. A hier is 240 threads, or rounds of the reel, each of them 91 inches long. About 50 years ago, neither buckles were used for shoes, nor metal buttons for clothes. There were then very few carts with-  
in



in the parishes. Loads were then carried on horseback. Prior to the 1745, there was not a tea-kettle within the parishes, except the minister's; now there is not a farmhouse without one, and several of the subtenants use the same piece of furniture. Formerly there was little beef or mutton used. Even a farmer's family thought themselves sufficiently provided in flesh-meat with one old ewe killed about Christmas. For such a family at present 16 stone of beef, and 2 good sheep are considered as a moderate provision. About 20 years ago, neither barn nor mill fanners for cleaning victual were to be seen; at present each of the three mills has a set of fanners, and there are but very few farmers, whose barns are not furnished with the same useful machine. There has also been within these 4 or 5 years, a barley-mill erected, much to the convenience of the neighbourhood. Formerly the people, especially such as were wealthy, lived frequently in fear lest their houses should be broken, and their property plundered; at present they live so secure in some places, that, as is said, they are seldom at the pains to bolt the door under night.

N U M.



## NUMBER II.

## PARISH OF DUNBARTON.

(COUNTY OF DUNBARTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES OLIPHANT.**Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

THE ancient name of the parish was *Dun britton*, a Gaelic compound, signifying “ the fortification of the Britons ;” whence it appears that the castle has given name to the parish. This castle, situated on a most remarkable bitopped insulated rocky hill, at the junction of the Clyde and Leven, is too well known to be particularly mentioned here. The parish lies in the county of Dunbarton, is the seat of a presbytery, and belongs to the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr. The form is nearly circular, extending in length from 2 to 3 miles, and in breadth from 1 to 2. Great part of the parish is flat, the remainder ascends gradually to the neighbouring hills, with a southern exposure. The parish is bounded by the frith of Clyde on the south, the water of Leven and parish of Cardross on the west, the parish of Bonhill on the north, and that of West Kilpatrick on the east.

*Soil, &c.*—The soil is fertile, but rather shallow. The air salubrious, excepting at times when a heavy fog rises from and hovers over the Clyde and Leven. Fevers prevail very much. Many die of consumptions, and the natural small pox is very mortal. The spreading and mortality of these diseases



diseases are to be attributed to ill-aired and crowded low houses, and to an over anxiety for constant prayers over the diseased.

*Rivers and fish.*—The Leven is navigable by coasting vessels above the town of Dunbarton; so far up the tides rise. Salmon and trout are taken in large quantities. The former frequently sells so high as 1 s. 6 d. *per lb.* tron, on the spot, seldom falls below 6 d, and never below 4 d. Through the whole spring season, the Leven salmon is excellent, but the Clyde is not fished before Whitfunday. Trout generally sells at 4 d. *per pound.* Very large eels, and a large species of flounder, are often caught by the salmon-fishers. A species of sea animals, most destructive of the salmon, are almost every summer season found in numbers, playing in the Clyde off the castle; they go up sometimes two miles higher, but generally keep lower down. These are called buckers, pellocks, or porpoises. The salmon fishery employs 16 men.

*Population.*—According to the returns made from hence to Dr Webster about 1750, this parish then contained 1427 souls. In 1790, the number of examinable persons above six years of age was found to amount to about 2000 (103 above 70 years of age, and two near 100,) of whom 1850 resided in the town of Dunbarton, and 153 in the country part of the parish. In that year 86 were baptised, 58 were buried, and 30 couples married. From the registers, it appears, that in 1644, 44 died; in 1654, 33, in 1664, 42: In 1690, 73 were baptised, 50 died, and 12 couples were married. The increase of population is to be attributed to the establishment of glass-works in the town, and of printfields in the neighbourhood. Almost the whole of



of the inhabitants are of the established church, there not being above half a dozen seceders in the parish.

*Manufactures.*—The minister's daughters manufacture nuns thread to a great extent. There is in the town a considerable crown and bottle glass manufactory, which employs 130 hands, and pays L. 3,800 *per annum*, of duties to Government. The extensive printfields in the neighbouring parishes employ about 86 inhabitants of the town of Dunbarton.

*Town of Dunbarton.*—This town was erected into a royal burgh by King Alexander the II. in 1221; it lies on the east bank of the Leven, has a good harbour, where large brigs lie safe in all weathers. About 2000 tons of shipping belong to this place, which employ 70 seamen. The town is entirely free of all imposts or borough taxes; but is by no means in a flourishing or increasing state, owing to the letters of deaconry preventing strangers from working at their trades, without costly entries. Several families have removed from Dunbarton to Renton, Bonhill, and other new villages, to be nearer the printfields where they are employed. There are about 130 handy-craftsmen, freemen of the burgh, besides the masters of the tailor, hammerman, shoemaker, weaver, and cooper trades.

*Heritors, &c.*—There are in the parish 52 heritors, about 40 of whom reside; 21 farmers, besides several small portioners, 130 handicraftsmen, 78 apprentices and journeymen, 2 students of divinity, 1 minister, 7 attornies, and 3 surgeons.

*Productions, &c.*—The productions of this parish are wheat, oats, barley, and a little flax; perhaps one third of  
the



the ground may be in sown grafs and pasture, about 100 acres in growing woods and planting, and there may be 200 acres of commony belonging to the town, to which the burgesſes may ſend their cows or horſes for about 7 s. a year. The pariſh does not ſupply the tenth part of the proviſions conſumed in it. Great quantities of corn, meal and butter, are imported from Ireland, and of cheeſe from Ayrſhire. Eggs are generally ſold at 4 d. the dozen, butter 9d. the pound, beef 6 d. mutton 6 d. hens 1 s. each.

Wheat is ſown in October, November, December, or even January, and reaped generally in Auguſt. Oats are ſown from the end of March, to the middle of April, and reaped the end of Auguſt, September, ſometimes not till the beginning of October. Barley is ſown the end of May, or beginning of June, and reaped in Auguſt or September.

*Rent.*—House rent is not low. The town's fiſhing on the Leven yields at preſent a rent of L. 55, and on the Clyde, of L. 23 yearly. The laſt ſet yielded L. 140 a year, and theſe fiſhings were once let ſo high as L. 300 a-year. Small parcels of land are often transferred. A piece of ground of four acres, lately ſold here, brought a price of L. 472; but that was a ſingular caſe.

*Fuel.*—The fuel generally uſed is coal, brought from Glaſgow or Knightswood, four miles below that town: A cart of coals, containing 12 cwt. coſts 3 s. 6 d. ready money at Glaſgow, pays 1 s. 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  d. of freight and dues, for deepening the Clyde, and 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. cartage from the quay, total 4 s. 9  $\frac{1}{4}$  d. Peats are dear, 2 s. the ſmall cart, and only uſed for kindling the fire.

*Stipend, &c.*—The right of patronage to the church lies in the magiſtrates and town-council; the ſtipend is, 100  
bolls



bolls of meal, 20 bolls of barley, 6 stone of salmon, and L. 27 in money, with L. 7 in lieu of a glebe. There never was a legal manse here. Mr William Blair, who was minister here in 1620, bequeathed a house for the residence of his successors in office in all time coming, on condition of the town-council's upholding the same. This house was afterwards exchanged for a better, and the last for one still more so, above L. 150 having been given by the town for the excambions. The council also pay for communion-elements, and for the whole reparations of the minister's house, and of the school. The church and church-yard walls are kept in repair by the kirk-session.

*Poor.*—The number of poor receiving alms is about 70; the annual amount of contributions at the church-doors, for their support, is L. 53 or L. 54; the hire of the mort-cloths produces L. 7 or L. 8; about L. 6, 6s. are received by the publication of banns, and about L. 9 from the rent of seats in the church. Besides these, a large sum was bequeathed in 1660, by Sir John Buchanan of that ilk, to the poor of the parish: Several losses from the principal have been sustained, but there still remains L. 851, the interest of which (excepting L. 10, paid to two public schoolmasters,) is religiously applied to the relief of the poor. Sir James Smollet of Bonhill in 1732, mortified 50 merks a-year, to be distributed immediately after the sacrament, to such of the poor as were communicants. The whole annual distributions amount to above L. 110.

*Prices of Labour.*—Common labourers receive 1s. a-day; carpenters 1s. 8d.; masons sometimes 2s.; joiners 1s. 6d.; tailors 8d. and victuals; linen-printers commonly earn 21s. a-week, not including extra work; many of the glass-house men 25s. a-week; girls flowering muslin can



make 1 s. a-day and upwards. Male-servants wages in general are high; female-servants receive generally 30 s. the half year, and some of them more. Common labourers may bring up their families comfortably, if they are industrious and temperate.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—It is very advantageous to the heritors and their tenants, that being so near a seaport town, they have high prices, in ready money, for every thing they raise, and are employed with their horses, almost as often as they chuse, or can be spared from husbandry. There are excellent roads through all the parish made by the military, and no turnpikes, except one on the way to Glasgow. School fees are very low, so that almost every person has an opportunity of following any branch of learning. Packets sail every day to Greenock and Port Glasgow; and a stage-coach sets out three times a-week to Glasgow. The chief disadvantage is the high price of fuel.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are very fond of a sea-faring life; many enlist in the army, chiefly in the artillery, and in the highland regiments. The advantages of society are enjoyed; but here, as in many other places, a murmuring spirit often appears, and a disposition to censure public measures. Many of the people are expensive, especially in the article of whisky. There are three fairs held in this parish, at which there used to be exposed great quantities of linen-yarn; numbers of sheep, cows, horses, and great herds of highland cattle are still sold. There is plenty of free stone, both of a white and red colour. The shore is flat and sandy, not a stone to be seen along it, except such as have fallen from the castle-hill. The common sea-weed is often used for manure, by the farmers nearest to the coast.



## NUMBER III.

## PARISH OF TULLYNESSLE.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr ANDREW MARSHALL.**Name, Situation, &c.*

**TULLYNESSLE**, the ancient and modern name of the parish, is evidently derived from the Gaelic, in which language *Tully* signifies “a dwelling,” *essle* “upon a sloping bank,” corresponding to the local situation of this place: Perhaps, however, it may have originally been called *Tullyn’esset*, that is, “a dwelling on the burn of ‘Efsset,’ a small stream in the parish. Tullynessle lies in the county and Synod of Aberdeen, and Presbytery of Alford; is about 4 miles in length, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth; being bounded by the parishes of Keig, Alford, Forbes, Clatt, and Leslie. The appearance of the country is hilly, or rather mountainous; at least it is bounded by a pretty extensive chain of mountains. The soil in general is a loam, very capable of improvement, and the arable land is composed of gentle slopes upon the declivity of hills, with some interjected flats. The hills are in many places stony, but none of them rocky; their soil is, for the most part, dry and barren, covered with heath. The air is pure and healthy, consequently few epidemical distempers appear.

*Rivers.*



*Rivers.*—The parish is bounded on the south side for above a mile by the river Don, which here is of considerable breadth, but shallow, with a quick current. All the neighbouring streams abound with fine trout, and a good many salmon are caught in the Don, though, owing to the erection of cruives near its mouth, they are not so plenty as would otherwise have been the case. The parish is very partially exposed to land floods.

*Minerals.*—There is abundance of very good moorstone, which dresses remarkably well for building; there are quarries of blue moorstone or granite, similar to those about Aberdeen; likewise there is a white moorstone of a very fine grain, which can be hewn for most purposes to which freestone is applied, but this kind is only found in single blocks, in a very broken irregular quarry. A grey micaceous flag-stone of a good size is also to be got in the parish.

*Animals.*—The common breed of black cattle in this parish is a middling, or rather small sized, hardy kind, weighing from 18 to 30 stone Amsterdam; they improve very much when carried into richer pasture, and consequently bring good prices from the drovers, who begin to pick them up early in spring, and continue buying through the summer. Mr Leith of Whitehaugh, who farms a great portion of his own estate, nearly one third of the parish, has, for several years past, been at uncommon pains to improve the breed of cattle, and has now so far attained his purpose, that most of the gentlemen and substantial farmers in the neighbourhood have thought it worth while to possess themselves of a few of his breed, which are of a pretty large size, very handsome, and remarkably well horned. There may be in the parish 390 head



head of cattle, 695 sheep, and 85 horses. Of wild animals, there are plenty of hares, a few deer of the roe kind, and too many foxes. The hills abound with grouse and plover, the flat parts of the country with partridges, snipes, wild ducks, and almost every kind of birds commonly found in the north of Scotland; but neither raven, rook, nor jack-daw, have been allowed to breed in the parish for several years past.

*Population.*—About 1750, according to the returns made to Dr Webster, the number of the inhabitants of this parish was 269. They have since increased; for in January 1791 the number was found to be 188 males, 208 females, 396 individuals, of whom there were

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Under 10 years of age, | 55  |
| From 10 to 20,         | 103 |
| From 20 to 50,         | 163 |
| From 50 to 70,         | 59  |
| From 70 to 94          | 16  |

all of the established church. The annual average of births is 3, of deaths 3, and of marriages 2. The population has, however, diminished of late years, partly owing to several of the inhabitants having been allured by manufactures to remove to Aberdeen, partly by several of the young men going southward in quest of business, and better wages; and partly to the union of farms in one district of the parish. There are but two heritors in the parish, one of whom resides.

*Crops, Rent, &c.*—Oats are generally sown from the beginning of March till the middle of April, then barley, till the beginning or middle of May. The crops are in general reaped from the end of August, to the middle or end of October. The parish supplies itself fully with provisions, and generally



generally sends to market a good deal of meal, as also cheese, butter, poultry, and eggs. The rent of 2-3ds of the parish occupied by tenants, may amount to L. 254 : 10 : 4 in money, and 140 bolls of meal. The best infield land lets at an average for about 16s. 8d. the acre; inferior about 10s. and outfield from 2s. 6d. to 5s. according to its quality; but, in general, the tenants pay in meal, in place of money, for the outfield grounds. Land is sold at an average at 25 years purchase; but no change of property has taken place in this parish for many years, or is likely to happen for many more.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—It may without exaggeration be asserted, that the prices of provisions are double, if not triple, of what they were about 30 years ago. About that time, an ox sold for 20s. which now costs at least L. 5, or L. 6; sheep, 3s. to 4s. for the best wedders; now the common price is from 6s. to 10s. 6d.; 2s. 6d. to 3s. for the best ewes and lambs; now they fetch from 5s. to 7s. or more. Hens then sold for 3d. now 6d.; eggs 1d. the 14, now 2d. the dozen; meal was sold in general for 6s. 8d. the boll, now it sells from 10s. to 12s.

The ordinary wages given to labourers when hired by the day are 6d.; tailors 5d. or 6d.; wrights 8d.; masons 1s. 2d.; all exclusive of victuals. The annual wages of men-servants employed by farmers, are in general above L. 5; of women-servants, from L. 2, to L. 2, 10s. Thirty years ago, the wages of the former run from L. 1 : 6 : 8, to L. 1, 13s. 4d. Harden cloth sold for 2½d. the ell, (it now sells for 8d. or 9d.,) and shoes for 1d. the inch in length.

*Condition of Labourers.*—Those labourers who continue able to work, may and do bring up their families tolerably well.



well. All have a kail yard; almost all a small piece of ground in tillage. The straw of the crop maintains a cow in winter, which grazes with the farmers cattle during the summer, and many of them have also a few sheep kept upon the farm, or by some person in the neighbourhood, for a mere trifle. A good deal of money is gained by knitting stockings, the general employment of the women: Young children might also be employed to advantage in that branch; but as there are few inclosures, most of them are occupied in looking after every small parcel of sheep or cattle, during 3-4ths of the year. Hence a labourer's family, while in health, rarely needs assistance.

*Implements of Husbandry.*—There are a great many ploughs, owing to the number of small farms, each of which must maintain a plough drawn by small steers, or sometimes by an intermixture of cows and horses. The larger farms are plowed by 8 or 10 small oxen; and the number of ploughs in all are between 30 and 40. There are about the same number of carts, suited to the size of the horses; but it is not above 30 years since carts began to be used in the parish.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, is only about L. 54 a-year; part of it is composed of the vicarage-teind, which is paid to the minister in kind. The church was rebuilt about 12 years ago, and the manse was built in 1724. The Earl of Fife is patron. The number of poor receiving stated alms is 4, though there are others who get occasional supplies. The annual amount of contributions for the support of the poor, is about L. 4, 10 s. besides the interest of L. 40.



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The general size of the people is from 5 feet 5 inches to 5 feet 10 inches, a few are below, but many above those sizes. They are slender, active and hardy, differing considerably in make and figure from the people on the south of the Grampians. They are industrious, humane, æconomical, and enjoy the comforts of society in a reasonable degree, and in proportion to their rank and circumstances. Their condition might, however, be meliorated, if the proprietors would give longer leases; oblige the tenants to adopt more modern and productive plans of farming; furnish them at first, with turnip and grass feeds; bind them to inclose, and improve a certain portion of ground annually, and allow them the expence of the inclosures at the expiry of their leases. The roads are in better repair in this than in most other parishes; the statute labour has hitherto been exacted in kind; and although a commutation has been proposed, it has not, in general, been agreed on as the most proper mode for this country.—The bear crop in 1782 was tolerably good, but oats and potatoes almost totally failed. The principal heritor took a good deal of trouble in procuring victual, as also grain and potatoes for feed; hence the parish was as well supplied as any in the neighbourhood. The fuel generally made use of, is turf and heath from the hills, there being very little peat to be got in the parish. Heath is particularly used in kiln-drying, brewing, and baking. About 30 years ago, charred peat was so universally used by the blacksmiths, that few could work with any thing else. But now they use coal only, over all the country.



## NUMBER IV:

## PARISH OF AUCHTERARDER.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By the Rev. Mr ANDREW DUNCAN.**Name, Situation, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

THE ancient and modern name of the parish is the same. It is derived from the principal village or town in it, and signifies the “summit of the rising ground;” which describes exactly the situation of the village, which is built on the ridge of an eminence in the middle of Strathern, and commands on the N. and E. an extensive prospect of the adjacent country. The parish has united with it, that of Aberuthven, which lies upon the E. *Aberuthven* signifies the “mouth of the Ruthven,” and it is in this parish that the small river of Ruthven discharges itself into the Earn. The annexation of the two parishes seems to have taken place some considerable time before the Revolution, and the distinction of the two, is now so much forgotten, that they never go by any other name than that of Auchterarder. Auchterarder is situated in the county of Perth, in the presbytery of Auchterarder, and in the Synod of Perth and Stirling: It is of an irregular form; its greatest extent from E. to W. is about 5 measured miles, and from N. to S. nearly the same; it is bounded on the W. by the parish of Blackford, on the N. by Trinity-Gask,



on the E. by Dunning, and on the S. by Glendovan and Fossaway. The greatest part of the parish is a flat and level country, lying on the south of the river Earn; it also includes in it some part of the Ochil hills, particularly Craigrossie, one of the highest of them. These hills are all green, and good sheep-pasture. Almost the whole of the low part of the parish is arable, and a good, though not a strong soil; on the banks of the Earn it inclines to a loam, but in general it is dry and light, requiring such a stimulus as lime or marl, and rewarding well whatever expence is laid out in that way. It may be farther observed, that the northern declivity of the hills is arable a considerable way upwards, and there is the strongest reason to believe that in former ages the hills have been plowed in many places to the very summit; the ridges are still plain and distinct.

*Air.*—The air is dry and good in summer, but rather moist and damp in winter, as is the case in the greatest part of Strathern, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Ochils. In the winter months the sun has not influence sufficient to dissipate the vapours which are attracted by the hills, and the most frequent winds blowing from them, must necessarily occasion a moisture in the air. This, one should think, would give rise to rheumatisms, and similar disorders, as it does in some instances; yet it cannot be said that rheumatism is a prevalent distemper here; and it is remarkable that of late years scarcely an instance of a person afflicted with the ague has occurred; the disorder which has been most prevalent and fatal for some years past, is a fever of the nervous kind.

*Rivers.*—The Earn, which bounds the parish on the N. produces salmon, and the large white and yellow trout; it



it beautifies the parish as well as the adjacent country, but is sometimes prejudicial to the neighbouring tenants, by overflowing its banks in the harvest. The Ruthven, which takes its rise in the hills, about 3 miles beyond the west boundaries of the parish, is a beautiful little river, and particularly useful to this parish; it runs with an uniform and constant stream through the whole length of it from the S. W. to the N. E. and turns the 11 mills in the parish, to be afterwards described; it abounds with a species of trout peculiar to itself, of a small size, but remarkable for flavour and delicacy.

*Stone and Slate.*—The parish, and particularly the neighbourhood of the village of Auchterarder, abounds with a hard and durable stone, which, lying in thin and regular strata, is very fit both for building houses and dry-stone fences; the quarries in the neighbourhood of the town also afford grey slate in abundance, which makes a roof greatly preferable to thatch, but heavier than the blue slate.

*Population.*—The antient state of the population cannot be ascertained with any degree of exactness; the number of people seems to have been increasing by slow degrees till the present time; the return to Dr Webster was 1194, they amount at present to 1670 souls, of which 805 are males, and 865 are females; 798 reside in the villages of Auchterarder, Berland-park and Miltown, and 872 in the country: The average number of births cannot be ascertained with great exactness, owing to some dissenting parents neglecting to get their childrens names inserted in the parish-register, or refusing to pay the clerk's dues; but making allowance for that omission, the annual average of births, for the last ten years, is 38; for the ten years from

1770



1770 to 1780 is 40; and for the ten years from 1760 to 1770 is no less than 48; a considerable number of the married women in the parish being now advanced in life, accounts for this diminution in the annual number of births. The annual average of burials for the last ten years is 36, and of marriages, 11. The number of souls under ten years of age is 341; from ten to twenty, 342; from twenty to fifty, 681; from fifty to seventy, 266; and from seventy to a hundred, 40. The number of heritors and feuars is 52; the four principal heritors do not reside in the parish. The number of farmers and occupiers of land is 82; of weavers, 49; of mechanics, 78; of male-servants, 109; of female-servants, 120. Besides the Established Clergyman, there is one Relief Minister, who resides in the parish; one writer, and one surgeon. The number of souls in the Established Church is 1176, and of Seceders, including those of the Relief persuasion, 492; there are only two Episcopalians.

The population of the parish is not materially different from what it was 5, 10, or 25 years ago; but is rather on the increase, owing principally to the accession of inhabitants to the villages from other parishes. The proportion of the annual births to the whole population, is as 1 to 38; of the annual marriages, nearly as 1 to 151; of the annual deaths, nearly as 1 to 46; of bachelors to married men, including widowers, as 1 to 5. Each marriage produces at an average, nearly 4 children. There are no uninhabited houses; of inhabited houses there are 303, and the number of persons, at an average, to each inhabited house, is upwards of 5.

*Produce, &c.*—The parish produces wheat, oats, barley, pease, hay, potatoes, and turnip, with the common kitchen herbs and roots. The different kinds of fir, the oak, ash, elm,



elm, beech, alder, birch and elder grow in it; but there are no extensive plantations of any of these kinds. A few hundred acres have of late been planted with the common fir. Besides the domestic animals, the numbers of which in the district could not be ascertained, as the tenants shewed an aversion to discover their stock, there are plenty of hares and partridges; there are the hedge-hog, otter, polecat and fox. The sheep-farmers used formerly to keep up their stock by purchasing hogs every year at Linton market; but they have now begun, and it is believed with success, to rear their own lambs, and of course they require a smaller supply from the south country. Horses and black cattle are reared on almost every farm of the parish. In general, it may be observed, that oats and barley are the principal productions of the parish. Every farmer sows a proportion of pease and lint-feed, and plants potatoes; several of them sow turnip, and this crop is becoming every year more frequent, because its value is better known; all of them lay down a greater or less quantity of ground in artificial grass, which, after being cut for two or three years, partly for immediate use, and partly to be made into hay, is afterwards pastured for two or three years more. Wheat is sown in some farms in the low part of the parish, and might with equal advantage be sown in others; but it is thought to be a crop rather too severe for the greatest part of the soil, and a good crop of barley is considered as not less profitable, because it impoverishes the ground less.

It is to be doubted whether the parish supplies itself in the article of flour; but there can be no doubt that it exports a considerable quantity both of barley-grain and oatmeal, and raises a great deal more beef and mutton than it consumes. The tenants generally begin to sow pease and oats about the middle of March, if the weather prove favourable,



vourable, and conclude the making of their barley sowing about the 25th of May. Harvest commonly begins, in the low part of the parish, the first or second week of September, and in the hills extends to the end of October or beginning of November.

There is only a small quantity of ground occupied by woods and rivers, and none at all by forests, lakes or marshes. There are a few hundred acres in common on the west end of the village of Auchterarder, called the moor of Auchterarder, to which the cows of the inhabitants go to pasture. In its present state it is of no great value; were it improved, and the southern part especially is very capable of improvement, the value of it would be vastly increased. There are also several hundred acres upon the hill of Folswell (part of the Ochils) in common among the neighbouring feuars: Both commons may perhaps contain 12 or 14 hundred acres. Very little land lets above, or even at 20s. the acre, except in the immediate neighbourhood of the town. Marl has been found in different parts of the parish, but as the parcels hitherto discovered have been in no great quantity, they are already exhausted.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The parish has a peculiar advantage in the small river of Ruthven, which runs through it from one end to the other; and at all seasons of the year, conveys such a quantity of water, as is sufficient to turn the machinery of any ordinary mill. Besides four corn mills, there are already erected on it, three lint mills, two oil-mills, a paper and a fulling mill; and, with little expence any kind of mill might be erected on it, which does not require a great weight of water. It is perhaps also an advantage to the parish, that the direct road runs through it, which leads from Perth, Aberdeen, and the East country, to Stirling and Glasgow.

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The village of Auchterarder labours under the disadvantage of not having a constant supply of water. The stream which runs through it being brought a considerable way from the town, is dry in the summer-season; and the greatest part of the inhabitants are then obliged to bring their water from an inconvenient distance. Pit-wells have been sunk in different parts of the town, but without success. A proposal has been lately made for bringing in pipes from the fountain-head; but to this scheme the consent of the Honourable Proprietor of the estate of Perth is requisite, as the spring lies in his ground; this, with his pecuniary aid, has been solicited, and both it is hoped will be granted: The advantage to the town in general, and to his feuars in particular, would be unspeakable. But without the assistance of others, the inhabitants are unable themselves to accomplish so expensive a work, as to bring water, even in wooden pipes, from the fountain-head to the bottom of the town, which is a distance of nearly 2 miles.

*Price of Provisions and Labour.*—The price of beef and mutton, about 50 or 60 years ago, was 9 d. or 10 d. a stone; of barley and oat-meal, 8 s. 4 d. Butter sold at 4 d. a-pound, and cheese at 2 d.; hens at 3 d. or 4 d. a-piece. At present beef sells at 3 d. a-pound; mutton at 4 d. during the summer; veal and pork, in their season, at 4 d. Butter commonly sells at 8 d. a-pound, and cheese at 4 s. 3 d. a-stone. Hens at 10 d. or 1 s. a-piece, and chickens at 3½ d. or 4 d. The wages of labourers in husbandry and other work, is 1 s. a-day in summer, and 10 d. in winter; of carpenters, 1 s. 2 d.; of masons, 1 s. 6 d.; and of tailors, 1 s. There are no male-servants in the parish, but such as are employed in husbandry, and their wages are from L. 7 to L. 8 the year. Female-servants work as occasion requires, either within or without doors, and they get about  
L. 2



L. 2, 10 s. yearly Herd-boys get from 12 s. to 20 s. during the time that cattle are sent out to pasture. The annual wages of a common labourer, which will amount to nearly L. 14, are, in general, if he be industrious, and his family healthy, sufficient to enable him to bring up a family.

*STATEMENT of the annual Income and Expences of a Day-labourer in the Parish of Auchterarder, who has a Wife and Seven Children, the eldest of whom is a Girl of 13 Years of age, and the second a Boy who tended cattle last Season. Along with his Dwelling-house, he rents an Acre of Land.*

### I N C O M E.

The father of the family has 1 s. a-day of wages, for 8 months in the year, and 10 d. the remaining 4 months. Deducting 43 days, of Sundays, holidays, and bad weather, from the summer-months, and 30 days on the same account, from the winter-months, he gains, during the whole year, L. 13 17 0

The mother, with the assistance of her eldest girl, in the management of her family, earns by spinning 1 s. 6 d. a-week, which is a-year, 3 18 0

The eldest boy earned by tending cattle, 18 0

The acre of land produced last year, 6 firlots of oats at 13 s. 6 d. the boll, 1 0 3

— 4 bolls of barley, at 14 s. the boll, 2 16 0

— 6 bolls and 2 firlots potatoes, at 4 s. 1 13 0

which is L. 1, 6 s.—He sold a calf at 7 s. 1 13 0

L. 24 2 3

E X-



EXPENCES.

|                                                                                                                           |       |    |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| Rent of his house and land, L. 3; expences of<br>feed and management, L. 1, 5,                                            | L. 4  | 5  | 0  |
| Fuel, L. 1, 5 s.; 8 bolls and 2 firlots of oat-<br>meal at 14 s. 6 d. a-boll, L. 6 : 3 : 3,                               | 7     | 8  | 3  |
| 4 bolls of barley-meal at 9 s. 4 d. the boll,                                                                             | 1     | 17 | 4  |
| The father's wear of clothes,                                                                                             | 0     | 10 | 0  |
| 2 shirts, 7 s.; 2 pair shoes, 10 s.; 2 pair<br>stockings, 4 s. 6 d.; wear of a bonnet<br>and handkerchief, 1 s. annually, | 1     | 2  | 6  |
| The mother's wear of clothes, 4 s.; 1 shift,<br>2 s. 6 d.; 2 aprons, 2 s. 3 d.                                            | 0     | 8  | 9  |
| Wear of shoes and stockings, 4 s.; hand-<br>kerchiefs, caps, &c. 3 s.                                                     | 0     | 7  | 0  |
| 1 pair of shoes to each of 7 children, 14 s. 2 d.;<br>clothes to the 3 youngest, 9 s.                                     | 1     | 3  | 2  |
| Clothes to the 2 next in age, 8 s.; ditto to<br>the 2 eldest, 10 s.                                                       | 0     | 18 | 0  |
| 1 shirt to each of the 3 youngest, 2 s.; 1 ditto<br>to the 2 next in age, 2 s. 6 d.                                       | 0     | 4  | 6  |
| 1 ditto to the 2 eldest, 3 s. 4 d.; 8 lb. of soap,<br>4 s. 8 d.; butcher-meat, 18 s.                                      | 1     | 6  | 0  |
| 4 pecks salt, 3 s. 4 d.; 3 Scots pint: of lamp-oil,<br>3 s. 6 d.; candle, 2 s. 2 d.                                       | 0     | 9  | 0  |
| Besides the milk, butter and cheese, the cow<br>yielded, he bought last year 2 stone cheese,                              | 0     | 8  | 0  |
| Molasses for making a kind of ale, 4 s. 6 d.;<br>groats and barley, 7 s.                                                  | 0     | 11 | 6  |
| Expences at in-lying, sickness, &c. 15 s.;<br>needles, pins and thread, 10 d.                                             | 0     | 15 | 10 |
| Carried forward,                                                                                                          | L. 21 | 14 | 10 |



|                                                                       |                  |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
|                                                                       | Brought forward, | L. 21 14 10 |
| Whisky, small beer, and wheaten bread at the<br>new year,             | -                | 0 3 4       |
| The family consumes the potatoes which the<br>land produces,          | -                | 16 0        |
| Grass to the cow in summer, 10 s.; straw to<br>ditto, in winter, 6 s. | -                | 0 16 0      |
|                                                                       |                  | <hr/>       |
|                                                                       |                  | L. 24 0 2   |

The generality of labourers, along with their dwelling-house, have as much land as enables them to keep a cow, which encreases their means of subsistence.

*Poor, Church, Stipend, &c.*—The number of the poor is 13. They receive a weekly allowance; but besides these, there are others who get occasional charity, as their circumstances may require. The annual amount of the collections at the church-door, of the interest of mortified money, and of proclamation-dues, is about L. 40 Sterling. The church was built in 1784. The value of the stipend, including the glebe, is about L. 90 Sterling. The Earl of Kinnoul is patron.

*Villages.*—There are 3 villages in the parish; the principal of which is Auchterarder, and which was once, perhaps, of greater note. That it was a royal burgh, and sent a member to Parliament, cannot be doubted. Its name is to be seen in the old rolls of Parliament; and a great number of the houses hold burgage to this day. How it came to lose its privileges is not certainly known. Auchterarder consists of one street nearly a mile long, and has in it about a hundred houses: Many of them have been lately rebuilt, which adds much to the improvement of  
the



the town, and the accommodation of the inhabitants. Besides four fairs every year, there has been a yearly tryft held the beginning of October, since the year 1781, at which there has been always a great shew of black cattle. The present number of inhabitants is 594, and the population of the place is apparently on the increase; for there have been of late, several new houses built, and more are building. Besides the Established Church, there is a Relief Meeting in the town. About 20 years ago, a considerable manufacture of yarn and narrow linen-cloth was carried on in Auchterarder. It was sold bleached and unbleached, and exported to Glasgow: But this trade is now in a great measure extinct. Sale linens are still manufactured in the town and neighbourhood; and linen, of a fabric peculiar to the place, and which goes by its name. At a little distance from Auchterarder, is a village called the Borland Park, built by Government for the accommodation of the soldiers who were disbanded after the war in 1763, and contains 140 inhabitants, who are mostly weavers. Most of the soldiers who were planted in it, left it very soon afterwards, though the terms of their settlement were very advantageous, either from dislike to the place, or more probably to their new mode of life. On the south of Auchterarder, and along the side of the Ruthven, is Miltown, a small village, containing 64 inhabitants. Here there is a distillery, consisting of two 40 gallon-stills.

*Antiquities.*—In the neighbourhood of Auchterarder, and on the N. of the town, are the remains of an old castle, said to be a hunting seat of King Malcolm Kenmore; adjoining to which is a small copse wood, which commonly goes by the name of the King's Wood. The tenant has been unluckily allowed to grub up the wood, and to build a farm-house with the stones of the castle; and there are



now but inconsiderable vestiges remaining of these venerable antiquities. A little to the northward of the castle, are the remains of a Popish place of worship, commonly known by the name of the Old Kirk, or St Mungo's Chapel. This was formerly the parish-church; and the church-yard was the burying ground of the parish: Many of the inhabitants still retain burying places in it. There are some traces of encampments on the S. E. of the village of Auchterarder, at the foot of the Ochils. Perhaps they were out-posts of the Roman camp at Ardoch; whatever they were, it seems probable the Romans were in this neighbourhood; for in digging the foundation of the church lately built in this place, a coin was found, of the Emperor Titus Vespasian, perfectly distinct. About 12 or 14 years ago, there was found in a marl-pit, in the parish, a pair of large horns, supposed to be of the Elk, or Eurus, which were sent to Edinburgh, and are now in the custody of the Antiquarian Society.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are, in general, much disposed to industry. They are æconomical, and yet, in general, by no means disinclined to humane and charitable actions. Their condition would be benefited, could the price of fuel be rendered cheaper. Perhaps there are no means of doing this, but by making the communication easier to the coal which is the fuel they must now chiefly trust to. In consequence of the act of Parliament, lately obtained for erecting tolls upon the roads within the county of Perth, it is proposed to make a toll-road to Blairingone. If this proposal should be carried into execution, it will no doubt render the communication easier; and it is to be hoped, also make the necessary article of coal cheaper. Coal is brought from Blairingone and Dollar, about 12 miles distance, and is sold here at  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. a-stone, Tron weight; at the coal-hill 12 stone



stone costs 4d. Were the two-handed spinning wheel more generally used, it would probably contribute in some measure to better the circumstances of the lower class of people, as well as to increase the materials of the linen-manufacture. There are but one or two such wheels in this parish; and it is but little used in many parts of the country. It might also be for the interests of the lower class of people, and especially the women, were they more employed than they are, in manufactures for which they are qualified. The great demand for men for all kinds of work, has raised their wages to an exorbitant height; while in this part of the country, at least, the wages of female-servants are barely sufficient to support them, when in health: They cannot afford to set apart any provision for sickness or old age, without the utmost parsimony.

The roads in the parish and neighbourhood, are but in an indifferent state. They are kept in repair by means of the statute-services, which of late have been commuted for money at the rate of 8s. the plough-gate. But though the roads, since that time, are better than formerly, they are far from being good; and this fund will probably be insufficient to make them so. The size of farms in the parish are small, and their number has of late neither increased nor decreased. A considerable part of the parish is inclosed, and the people seem to be sufficiently convinced of the advantages of inclosures. Property in land does not change often. Two small estates were sold lately at upwards of 30 years purchase.

In the years 1782 and 1783, the price of meal was not so high as in many other districts; and meal was always to be had. The bounty of Government was of service, though it was late in arriving; and the kirk-session, by laying out a part of their funds in purchasing meal, furnished the  
poorest



poorest class of people with it at a lower rate than the market-price.

The alteration in the dress and manner of living of the inhabitants, within these 30 or 40 years, is not a little remarkable. Every body is now decently and comfortably clothed, which perhaps was not the case then; and there is now four times the quantity of butcher-meat used. About 25 or 30 years ago, there was but two fixpenny wheaten loaves brought from Perth, to two private families, in the week: There is now a baker in the village, who sells bread to the amount of L. 200 a-year, and about L. 80 worth is brought every year from Perth. It must, however, be observed that the parishes of Blackford and Trinity-Gask are in part supplied from Auchterarder. A house in the village of Auchterarder, consisting of 4 apartments, with a garden, lets for about L. 4; and separate rooms, with a small garden, let from 20 s. to 25 s. There are about 100 ploughs in the parish; many of them are four-horse ploughs, and the rest two-horse ploughs. Sometimes, but rarely, 2 oxen are used, instead of 2 horses, next the plough. In the low part of the parish the tenants are improving the breed of their horses, and among them the two-horse plough generally prevails. There are about 250 single horse carts, and not one double horse cart. An opinion prevails, which is probably true, that the horses are more equally wrought, in these rough and unequal roads, by each having his own cart.



## NUMBER V.

## PARISH OF ABERLEMNO.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

*By the Rev. Mr ANDREW MITCHEL.**Name, Situation, &c.*

**A**BERLEMNO is said to derive its etymology from *aber* in the Gaelic language, signifying the "mouth of" or "above," and from the small river of Lemno, which takes its rise in this parish, and falls into the river South-Esk, about a mile N. from the church. The names of most places are said to be derived from the Gaelic language. This parish is situated 12 or 13 miles from the sea-coast, in the county and presbytery of Forfar, and Synod of Angus and Mearns. Its form somewhat resembles an oblique triangle. The extent of it from E. to W. is about 6 miles; and from N. to S. about 5. It is bounded on the N. by the parishes of Carrarton and Tannadice; on the N. W. by the parish of Oathlaw; on the W. and S. by the parish of Rescobie; on the S. E. by Guthrie, and on the E. by Brechin. The soil, in general, is fertile, the low grounds deep, the high grounds shallow and rocky. The appearance of the country, in this parish, is various; in some places flat, in others hilly; the hills are covered with heath. A large tract of ground upon the banks



banks of the river South-Esk, is sometimes subject to inundations; the most remarkable of which happened in harvest 1774.

*Population.*—The population of this parish is supposed not to be materially different from what it was formerly. The return to Dr Webster was 943. The present amount of the population is 1033.

|                    |   |   |     |                    |   |     |
|--------------------|---|---|-----|--------------------|---|-----|
| Males,             | - | - | 514 | Between 20 and 50, | - | 431 |
| Females,           | - | - | 519 | 50 and 70,         | - | 123 |
| Aged below 10,     | - | - | 245 | 70 and 100,        | - | 17  |
| Between 10 and 20, | - | - | 217 |                    |   |     |

|                               |   |   |   |    |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|----|
| The annual average of births, | - | - | - | 28 |
| deaths,                       | - | - | - | 20 |
| marriages,                    | - | - | - | 12 |

Average of children from each marriage, from 5 to 7

Heritors, (four reside in the parish.) 10

Great farmers, about 30

Inhabited houses, about 170

Poor receiving alms, 16

Expence of their yearly supply, at an average, L. 25

Episcopalian families, 2

Weavers employed in the manufacture of brown linen or Osnaburg, 74

Smiths, 5 Merchants, 4

Carpenters, 7 Gardeners, 3

Tailors, 11 Flax-dressers, 4

Shoemakers, 10 Male labouring servants, 47

Millers, 6 Female ditto, 33

Masons, 2

*Church, Stipend and School.*—The church was repaired in 1774, and the manse built in 1782. The stipend, including the glebe, is between L. 86 and L. 96 Sterling.

The



The schoolmaster's salary is 200 merks; the number of scholars generally about 40. English and writing are taught for 1s. 6d. the quarter; arithmetic and Latin, for 2s. 6d. The emoluments of session-clerkship may be about L. 4 or L. 5 Sterling, yearly.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—The wages of a day-labourer in husbandry are 1s. without victuals, and 8d. with them. A male labouring servant's wages are from L. 5 to L. 8 a-year; a female's, L. 3; a good labouring married servant receives as wages about L. 6 Sterling in money, a house and yard, the value of which is between 20s. and 30s.; he gets a cow maintained through the year, and his fuel brought home: All which generally enable him to bring up a family. A carpenter's wages are 10d. or 1s. and his victuals; a mason's 1s. 4d. or 1s. 6d. without victuals; a tailor's 8d. with victuals.—The price of provisions is doubled since 1745: Butcher-meat is 4d. the lb.; ducks and hens, 8d. each; butter 8d. the lb.; cheese 6s. or 7s. the stone.

*Farms, &c.*—The farms, in general, are from 50 to 250 or 300 acres; few are more extensive, and some are smaller. Their number is not diminishing. By a late regulation, the half of each farm should be in grass. Oats and pease are sown in March and April; barley in April and the beginning of May; and wheat generally in September and October. The greatest part of the land is inclosed; the people being convinced of the advantage of inclosing. The loch of Balgavies has, for many years, furnished much marl for manure. The rent of the best arable land may be about L. 1 the acre; but what the farmers chiefly study is the bringing up of black cattle. The land-



rent of the parish is fully L. 2000 Sterling. The number of ploughs is 48, each of which is generally drawn by four horses; the number of horses 161; of carts 90. There has been little sale of land from time immemorial.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The air, in most places is healthy. There is plenty of moorstone, free-stone and slates; many of which last, are sent to London and other places. Coal, peat, turf, broom and furze, are used for fuel. Coal from Fife costs 6d. the boll, *i. e.* 7 stone weight. Peat is got from a neighbouring parish, at about 2s. the cart-load. There are 2 chaises in the parish. Two obelisks remain, one in the church-yard, another on the highway from Brechin to Forfar, about 8 or 9 feet high; they were erected in memory of the total defeat of the Danes, and have some rude hieroglyphical sculptures\*. A few tumuli have been opened in this neighbourhood, in one or two of which was found a rude kind of stone coffin, containing a small quantity of black earth, with some bones almost entirely consumed. In 1777, there was a cut made the whole breadth of this parish, from the church southward; and a bridge built by private subscription, to connect the road from Forfar to Brechin with that to Arbroath. The statute-labour has been, for the most part, commuted. The principal manufacture is linen. Few enlist in the army. The people are industrious, economical, and, in general, humane in their disposition. There is a great alteration for the better, in the manners, dress and style of living within these 40 years. The parish always supplies itself with provisions and

\* See Pennant's Tour; Gordon's Itinerary; Buchanan's Hist. lib. 6.



and sometimes exports large quantities of grain. There are two inns on the great road between Brechin and Forfar, for the entertainment of travellers. Few services are performed by tenants or subtenants, excepting the carriage of the landlord's coals.

# NUMBER



## NUMBER VI.

## PARISH OF DRUMBLADE.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE ABEL.**Name, Situation, &c.*

THE ancient name of this parish was *Drumblait*, the modern is *Drumblade*, which signifies in Gaelic, "hills covered with corn," of which there are several in the parish. Drumblade lies in the county and Synod of Aberdeen and the Presbytery of Turriff. Its form somewhat resembles the body of a fiddle; the length from N. to S. is from 5 to 6, the breadth from E. to W. from 4 to 5, and the circumference about 18 miles. It is bounded by the parishes of Forgue, Inch, Gartly and Huntly; by the two last of which, it is intersected in some places. The surface is composed of small hills and vallies, some of the former are covered with fir, but most are arable. The vallies produce excellent crops where properly cultivated. The soil of the last is a deep loam, and that of the higher ground is thin, but fertile; the air tolerably salubrious, and the people generally healthy.

*Animals.*—The quadrupeds are horses, black cattle, sheep, hogs, foxes, hares, polecats and badgers. Birds are grouse, partridges, plovers, a few wood-cocks, &c. The cattle are not of an uncommon size, though they are very hardy and serviceable. Some cows bred here have fold at L. 8,  
and



and oxen at L. 16; but the common prices are greatly below these sums, ordinary cows selling from L. 4 to L. 5, and oxen from L. 6 to L. 10.

*Minerals.*—There is plenty of coarse lime-stone, of free-stone, (called here paify whin,) of moorstone, and indications of slate; there being inexhaustible quarries of that article in the neighbourhood. Some few chalybeate springs are to be met with, but weak and little used.

*Population.*—According to the returns made from hence to Dr Webster, the number of inhabitants in this parish about 1750, was 1125; this has since diminished, as in 1790 there were only 886 individuals, of whom 427 were males, and 459 were females. Of the total number, 812 belonged to the Established Church; 40 were Seceders; 30 of the Episcopal persuasion, and 4 Papists. The annual average of births is  $23\frac{3}{8}$ ; of deaths  $20\frac{1}{8}$ ; and of marriages  $4\frac{4}{8}$ . The population in 1782, was 876; in 1783, 892; in 1784, 887; in 1786, 914; in 1787, 903; in 1788, 874. The causes of these alterations are young men, such as masons, shoemakers, wrights, slaters, &c. going abroad to improve themselves in their respective crafts; and to the enlisting of some in the army, particularly in the artillery. There are 200 inhabited houses; the property of which is divided among four heritors, only one of whom resides.

*Productions, &c.*—The parish produces all the ordinary kinds of vegetables in the fields and gardens; supplies itself with provisions, and exports meal, bear, and oats. Sowing and reaping depend much upon the seasons. Pease and oats are sown (if the ground be dry and fit for the seed) from the 1st of March to the middle of April; barley and  
common



common bear from the last period till Whitsunday. Barley, bear, and Peebles, or early oats, are reaped from the end of August to the middle of September, common oats to the end of October ; and sometimes in very late seasons, and backward weather, the harvest continues till the beginning, nay middle of December, as in 1782. There may be about 400 acres in plantations. Each farm has a proportion of pasture-ground set apart for the cattle and sheep ; and it must be acknowledged there is too much waste ground. There are some inclosures in the parish ; but the greatest part of it is uninclosed, as the people, though sensible of the benefits of inclosing, cannot afford the outlay of money necessary for that purpose.

*Rent, Wages, &c.*—Best arable or meadow ground lets in general at 14 s. or 15 s. the acre ; inferior, from 5 s. to 10 s. The rent of the whole parish is above L. 1622. Landed property is not often changing. The daily wages of a labourer in husbandry are 9 d. ; in harvest from 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d. ; of a carpenter 1 s. ; of a mason 1 s. 3 d. ; of a slater 1 s. 2 d. ; of a tailor 10 d. When men and women are employed for the whole year in husbandry, the wages of the former are from L. 4 to L. 6, and of the latter, from L. 2 to L. 2, 10 s. exclusive of victuals and lodging, with which they are also supplied by their masters. None have been obliged to leave the parish for want of employment. The fuel commonly used is peat, turf, heath, broom, whins, (all found in the parish), and English coal, landed at Banff or Portsoy. There is a very fine clay, of a yellowish brown colour, (called here clay-marl), to be got in great quantities, in which very little sand appears. It is only used as a compost for manure, or is laid upon grass-ground with little propriety or judgment.

*Church,*



*Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The church was rebuilt in 1773. The former church had been built in the year 1110, as appears from raised figures upon one of the keep-stones of the east end; and the appearance of the work seemed to confirm its antiquity. The value of the living, including the glebe, is L. 67 : 15 : 8. The Earl of Kintore is patron. The number of poor receiving support from the funds, on an average of 5 years, is 12. The last year's amount of the contributions, and the produce of alms, legacies, and all the other funds destined to their use, was L. 24 : 10 : 5.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The general size of the people is from 5 feet 5 inches, to 5 feet 10 inches. They are not remarkably indolent; but with regard to industry, there is room for improvement. They are æconomical, live soberly, and rather poorly, but seem tolerably contented with their condition; are humane, and discover their humanity on every occasion. They have a little more the command of money at first setting out in the world, might greatly meliorate their condition. The roads in this parish are not in good repair, on account of the clay soil, the want of gravel, the great length of highway, and the small number of people to look after it. The statute-labour is, however, exacted, and but in very few instances commuted. There are no turnpikes; the general opinion seeming to be against them.

*Antiquities.*—There are three *tumuli* in this parish; the largest, Meet-hillock, is near Slioch, where King Robert Bruce encamped, when he came N. in pursuit of some of the adherents of Cummine Earl of Badenoch, after defeating that nobleman at Inverurie. A small hill above that tumulus is called to this day Robin's Height, and had on the  
top



top large stones, with inscriptions on them, now all broken down and carried away ; at least none are at present to be seen above the ground. Tradition reports, that these three tumuli were raised by Bruce's army, as posts of communication for his soldiers ; and the orders were given by the King at Meet-hillock. None of them have been opened.

*Famine in 1782.*—The crop in 1782 almost totally failed ; of course the year 1783 would have proved calamitous in the highest degree, had there not been a very large supply of pease procured from Norfolk, which was sold out twice a-week, at prime cost, in the smallest quantities called for. There was also barley brought from Aberdeen, and retailed in meal by private adventurers. During this period none died of want ; the people were more healthy than usual ; and the women in general exerted themselves so much in spinning, and sitting up at their work every other night, as to produce double the usual quantity of linen yarn, thus contributing more to the support of their families than the men.

NUM-



## NUMBER VII.

## PARISH OF SKENE.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES HOGG.**Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

ACCORDING to tradition one of the progenitors of the present laird of Skene is said to have killed a boar that endangered the King's life, Malcolm Kenmore, with a knife or dagger, called in Gaelic, a *Skian*, and received as reward the greater part of the lands in the parish. Hence the name of the family of Skene, and that of the parish. The parish is situated in the county of Aberdeen, and lies from 6 to 12 measured miles N. W. from the town. It is in the Synod and Presbytery of Aberdeen. Its extent in circumference is nearly from 20 to 24 measured miles. The form is nearly oval; the length is 6, and the breadth from 3 to 4 measured miles. It is bounded on the E. by the parishes of New-hills and Peterculter; on the S. by Peterculter; on the W. by Echt and Cluny; on the N. W. by Kemnay; and on the N. by Kintore and Kinellar. The appearance of the country is hilly and rocky. The nature of the soil is various; the predominant quality is that of gravel. Some spots are fertile enough, others very barren. The air is sufficiently dry and healthy. The most prevalent distempers are fevers. The parish abounds with mineral springs. These might be rendered serviceable in scorbutic



and scrophulous diseases; but they are rarely applied to for relief. The tendency which the lands have in general to minerals, operates to their disadvantage; being inimical to vegetation, and quickly consuming manure of every kind. There is a lake of considerable extent, the lake of Skene, about a measured mile in length, and something more than 3-4ths in breadth. It is visited, especially in winter, by duck, geese, and occasionally by swans; pike and eel in great abundance, and of considerable size are found in it. The pike is good, I believe, at all seasons, it can be caught. The eel is in greatest perfection towards the end of September, and beginning of October, when it quits its summer-quarters, and proceeds down the burn which flows from the loch. A canal from the lake to Aberdeen, fit for navigating boats of an ordinary size, has been projected. The scheme is certainly practicable, and would, if carried into execution, be of considerable advantage to this parish, and the country around it. A cut of about 16 measured miles in length, through a country sufficiently flat for the purpose, is all that would be required, without, I should think, the aid of almost a single lock. But the country must be farther advanced in cultivation, before such a scheme, I suspect, can or will be attempted. The hills are in general green and rocky. Moorstone and granite are to be found in abundance, and are used in building.

*Population.*—The population does not appear to be materially different from what it was 10 or 20 years ago. That it is on the increase, manifestly appears from the registers of marriages and baptisms, which have been accurately enough kept. The population, according to Dr Webster, was 1251. About the 1777, it was 1306. In 1787, it was 1256. The amount at present, is 1233, of which 572 are males, and 661 females. There are no towns nor villages



villages in the parish. The annual average of births from 1740 to 1750, was 39; from 1760 to 1770, 30; from 1780 to 1790, 19. The annual average of deaths from 1760 to 1770, 30; from 1780 to 1790, 25. The annual average of marriages from 1760 to 1770, 15; from 1780 to 1790, 9. The rule for ascertaining the population of any parish or district, (*viz.* by multiplying the number of births by 26, and the number of deaths by 36), does not appear to be at all accurate; nor has it nearly answered in any instance that I have heard of, where it has been tried. The number of souls under 10 years of age, amounts to 235; from 10 to 20, is 274; from 20 to 50, is 460; from 50 to 70, is 158; above 70, and below 100, is 106. There were formerly 51 farms, or rather ploughs, in the parish. The number is now diminished. A farmer's family, at an average, may consist of from 6 to 9 persons. There are 2 or 3 merchants, and 14 or 15 tradesmen. A very considerable proportion of the present inhabitants of the parish are natives of other parishes. The whole parish is of the Established Church, except 1 Seceder, and 9 Roman Catholics. The proportion of the annual births to the whole population is nearly as 1 to 65; of the annual marriages to the whole population as 1 to 137; of the annual deaths to the whole population nearly as 1 to 49. At an average, each marriage may be said to produce from 4 to 6 children.

*Productions Agriculture, &c.*—On the lands belonging to Skene only have trees been hitherto raised. No plantations have till of late been made, and even that to no great extent, nor improvements indeed of any kind, owing to invincible obstructions. Considering the great quantity of waste land in the parish, fit only for bearing trees, the neglect of cultivating them is much to be regretted. Trees of all kinds



tend greatly to beautify a country, and prove ultimately highly useful and profitable. Ash, plane, pine, common fir, willow, larix, are the kinds of trees which are principally produced. The larix is only of late introduced; and it seems to thrive better, and advance faster than any other tree. It is attended with this singular advantage too, that it thrives almost in any soil, and in any situation. Horses, black cattle, and sheep, are the animals which the parish produces. The number of cattle amounts to 1185; of sheep to 1205; of horses, to 199. The number of acres may possibly be, at an average, above 8000: Of these, about 2300 are called infield; about 3056 outfield; about 1640 pasture-ground; 534 mofs, and about 520 moor-ground. The greater part of the arable ground is employed in raising oats and bear. A middling farm will sow about 36 or 40 bolls of oats, and from 4 to 6 bolls of bear. Wheat, rye, hemp, flax, are not cultivated in this corner. About 64 acres only are employed in raising turnip and potatoes. The artificial grasses occupy about 490 acres. The parish for the most part supplies itself with articles of provision, and rarely imports or exports. Oats in general are sown towards the middle and end of April, and reaped in October. Bear is sown about the beginning of May, and reaped in general in September. Turnip are sown towards the end of June. About 135 or 140 acres are employed in raising forest-trees. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2500 : 16 : 8 Scots. — The neighbourhood of Aberdeen is advantageous to the parish, where it finds a ready market for every article of produce; and has but a moderate distance to carry lime, &c. in return, for manuring its fields. Among its disadvantages, are to be numbered its difficulty of improvement, (being in general full of



of both rocks and stones, and a considerable part of it wet and spongy), the small progress which agriculture hath hitherto made, and I may add the quantity of moss in the parish. The last assertion may appear paradoxical. It is nevertheless true: For till the lands belonging to the town of Aberdeen were feued, the greater number of the subtenants, and many even of the tenants upon these lands, employed a great part of their time in digging and driving peat to Aberdeen, to the almost total neglect of the cultivation of their fields, without deriving in return any proportionable compensation.

*Stipend, Church, Poor, &c.*—The stipend, including the glebe, is from L. 70 to L. 80 Sterling. Mr Skene of Skene is patron. When the church was built nobody knows. It is very old, and has not been repaired for a long time past. The manse was built in the year 1779. There are 4 heritors in the parish, two of whom only reside, and one of these but occasionally. The number of poor receiving alms is at present 24. The annual amount of the contributions for their relief is about L. 11, 10 s. Sterling. The produce of legacies is L. 6, 10 s. Sterling.

*Wages, Fuel, &c.*—The wages of a day-labourer, in husbandry and other work, are from 8 d. to 1 s.; a carpenter's from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d.; a mason's about 1 s. 6 d.; a taylor's about 8 d. or 9 d.; a smith's about 1 s. 1 d. or 1 s. 2 d. The only fuel used in the parish is peat: The mosses in this country, in general, are full of the roots of trees; an evident proof, that it has been formerly much more covered with wood than it is at present. The trees commonly found in our mosses are oak, aller, elm, hazel



zel and common fir; the oak predominates. The usual wages of male-servants are from L. 4 to L. 6 a-year, and of female-servants from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterling. The kind of plough, generally made use of, is the common Scotch plough. There are 140 carts; only 1 chaise.

*Antiquities.*—Besides 2 Druidical temples, pretty entire, and a number of barrows or tumuli, there are, on a moor covered with barrows, about an English mile S. of the church, evident traces of an encampment; near which is a very large collection of stones or a cairn. About 3-4ths of a mile N. E. of the church, on the top of a hill, are the remains of a wall, which appear to have been formerly resorted to as a place of strength.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The spirit for industry seems at last to be rousing. Improvements of every kind are progressive in their nature, and require time and encouragement to bring them to any degree of perfection. They are on their progress northward; and he who shall accelerate it, well deserves to be accounted by his country a public benefactor. The state of the roads is only tolerable; there are no turnpikes, and the opinion of the country seems, in general, to be against them. Several bridges, that were very much wanted, have been erected. Inclosing of land is going on fast; the rent of infield land, in general, may, at an average, be 14s. or 16s. the acre; outfield about 2s. 6d. pasture 6d. The rent of a middling farm may be, at an average, from L. 25 to L. 30 Sterling. The number of farms in the parish is diminishing. The improvements carrying on by one heritor, and the feuing, of late, of the lands belonging to the town of  
Aberdeen,



*of Skene.*

Aberdeen, may be assigned as the cause; by which last, 31 ploughs have been reduced to 14; but the rents have considerably encreased, and a spirit of improvement has been excited. The situation of the parish in 1782 and 1783 was, as I have been informed, very wretched; and had not the peace, at that critical period, taken place, a famine, it is believed, must, in this country in general, have inevitably ensued. The pease, which had been bought up for the use of the fleet, were imported in great quantities into Scotland; and this supply, along with the laudable exertions of communities and individuals, proved, under Providence, the means of saving the country.

NUM.



## NUMBER VIII.

## PARISH OF ABERLOUR.

(COUNTY OF BANFF.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES THOMSON.**Name, Situation, Extent, Surface and Soil.*

**T**HE ancient name of this parish was *Skirdustan*, so called from its tutelary saint, *Dustan*. Its modern name is *Aberlour*, derived from its local situation; being situated at the mouth of a noisy burn, where it discharges itself into the *Spey*. It lies in the western part of the county of *Banff*, about 20 computed miles W. of the county-town, 10 S. of *Elgin*, and 12 S. E. of *Forres*. It gives name to the presbytery to which it belongs, being the presbytery-feat; and pertains to the Synod of *Murray*. The figure of the parish resembles a wedge, being broader at the west end, and growing gradually narrower towards the E. Its length from E. to W. is about 6 Scotch miles; its breadth from S. to N. at the west end, about 5 Scotch miles; about the middle, between 2 and 3, but at the east end it will not exceed an English mile. It is bounded on the S. and S. E. by the parish of *Mortlack*, from which it is separated by a small rivulet and a range of hills called the *Convuls*; it is bounded on the E. by the parish of *Boharm*, from which it is divided by a small



small river called Fiddich; on the N. by the parish of Rothes, from which it is separated by the river Spey; on the N W. by the parish of Knockandow, from which it is also separated by the river Spey; and on the W. and S W. by the parish of Inveraven, from which it is divided by a hill called the Drum of Carron, the small water of Tarvey, and the hill of Allachoynechan, upon which the battle between the Earls of Argyle and Huntly, commonly called the battle of Glenlivet, was fought. The appearance of the parish is various; that part of it which lies N W. N. and E. and runs along Spey and Fiddich, is flat; that which lies towards the S E. and S W. is hilly. In the middle of the parish stands the high mountain of Belrinnes, from the top of which you can, in a clear day, see as far S. as the Grampian hills, and as far N. and E. as the mountains of Ross, Sutherland and Caithness. The soil towards the river is light, and when you dig to any depth, a stratum of sand. That which is towards the hills is deep, and a clay bottom. But both the one and the other are abundantly fruitful when properly cultivated.

*Rivers, &c.*—Besides the Spey and Fiddich, there are a good number of small rivulets or burns, which abound with trout and eel, as do Spey and Fiddich; in the former of which considerable numbers of salmon used to be caught; and for a liberty of catching them with rods, dikes or cairns, the tenants, along the river-side, paid to their respective heritors a certain yearly rent, which was called water-rent. But, of late years, the quantity of salmon caught within the bounds of this parish is greatly diminished, in consequence of a process between the Duke of Gordon and the upper heritors, wherein it was found, that the Duke had a title to raise cruives across the river,



under certain regulations, and with what they call the Sunday's sleep; the few that are still caught are sold within the parish, in the beginning of the season, at 4d. the lb. and not below 2d. at any season. Within these 24 years past, there have been more frequent overflowings of the Spey, than are remembered before that, by the oldest man alive, and whereby the adjacent fields have been much damaged. In September 1768, especially, the river rose about 18 feet perpendicular above the channel, overflowed the fields, carried along with its stream the cut corn, and large trees torn up by the roots, buried the corn which was not cut under a bed of sand above 30 inches deep, and left the salmon dead on the fields, at the distance of above 100 yards from the bed of the river. There have been sundry extraordinary swellings of the river since that time, but never to such a prodigious pitch, although the rains have been greater, and of longer duration, in the low country; from which it has been concluded, that the inundation in 1768 was occasioned by water-spouts on the hills.

*Produce.*—Though the parish is rather calculated for grain than for pasture, it rears sufficient black cattle, sheep and hogs; not only supplying itself, but sending to market. Some of the best farmers also bring up horses fit for saddle and draught; and although the district cannot be said to be famous for breeding horses, black cattle or sheep of superior qualities, yet there are, of each kind, some raised, which are esteemed very handsome, and well shaped, for which the owners draw for horses from L. 15 to L. 20 Sterling; for cows from L. 5 to L. 9 Sterling, for oxen from L. 8 to L. 12, and for sheep ten guineas the score. And as the parish has these useful animals, it wants not those that are noxious; such as, foxes, badgers, otters,



otters, &c. It is also stored with fowls and birds. Being a highland country, abounding with woods, and almost surrounded with hills, there are muirfowls, partridges, plovers, snipes, lapwings, cormorants, hawks, magpies, and woodcocks at their season; sometimes eagles are seen upon Belrinnes, and some of their feathers are found there; the night owl also shows itself. The migratory birds are the cuckoo, which appears in the beginning of April, and disappears in August; the lapwing, about the month of March, and is seldom seen after the end of July; the swallow about the first of June, and disappears in the end of July; the woodcock about October, and is scarce seen after April.—The parish produces grain of all sorts, with any due culture; and not only supplies itself, but sells oats, meal and barley, sometimes to the highlands, and sometimes for exportation. It has also abundance of barren timber, especially oak, allan and birch, which grow naturally in large woods, and some plantations of firs are lately planted. There are also fruit-trees, such as apple, pear, cherry trees, &c. in some gardens. Turnip and potatoes begin now to be raised on every farm, though, being but lately introduced, in small quantities. The practice of planting cabbage in the fields has not got in here; nor is it likely that it will be introduced soon, as almost all the fields are without any fence; and winter herding is not practised. There is also some flax raised, but no hemp; and no great quantities of sown grass.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's state of the population, the number of inhabitants was 1010. There are, at present, about 920 souls; about 450 males, and 470 females. The births and deaths bear not the ordinary proportion to the population. By summing up the baptisms  
and



and burials for 20 years, it appears, that the baptisms are, at an average, 25, deaths 13, and marriages 8. Though there are scarce any remarkable for longevity, yet the people are generally healthy, and, a few excepted, who are carried off by small pox and consumptions, arrive at the age of 70, 80, and not a few at 84. The whole are of the Established Church, except about 10 or 11, who are Roman Catholics. The inhabitants, except a very few servants and cottagers who come from Strathspey and Badenoch, are natives, descended from ancestors who have lived in the parish for many generations; and as there are very few who come from other places, so there are as few who leave the parish: For since the year 1782, when there were whole families emigrating from the neighbouring parishes to North America, none, except a few aspiring young men, who have had a more liberal education than their neighbours, have left this parish, and gone, some to London, some to the West India Islands. There is but one residing heritor.

*Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The church seems to be very old, and was repaired in 1786. The stipend till the year 1772 was only L. 50; but at that period the Earl of Fife, as patron, without any application from the incumbent, or any in his name, with a generosity worthy of his Lordship, proposed an augmentation of the stipend, and desired the incumbent to name what augmentation he thought the minister of Aberlour ought to have; who, with the advice of the presbytery, proposed L. 8 : 6 : 8 Sterling, of money, with 18 bolls of oat-meal, at 8 stone the boll, which his Lordship agreed to, and obtained a decret, without any expence to the incumbent: So that, at present, the stipend is L. 58 : 6 : 8 of money, and 18 bolls of



of meal, with about a little more than 5 acres of arable ground for a glebe, little more than an acre of grafs, a manse, garden and offices. The funds for the poor are not great, though the number on the poor's roll is considerable, there being just now about 30. There is a mortification of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal, at 9 stone the boll, payable yearly off a small farm. One hundred merks, besides, were mortified by a farmer of the name of M'Erron; another hundred merks by one of the name of Green; both which sums, with any savings made in years of plenty, are lent out upon interest, and amount now to about L.80 Sterling of capital. The annual rent of this, with the above mentioned mortified meal, the weekly collections, amounting to about 2 s. Sterling, at an average, each Sabbath, with the produce of the mort-cloth, and any fines for immoralities, are all the funds for assisting this numerous roll. Indeed, in 1782, it was necessary, by reason of the scarcity, to diminish the capital; but since that time it has been raised to what it is at present.

*Price of Provisions and Labour.*—The prices of victuals and clothing are greatly raised within these 20 years past. Meal, which before that period, would have been bought at 8 s. 4 d. the boll, now sells at 11 s. or 12 s.; beef, which formerly sold at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. a-pound, now gives 3 d. or 4 d.; eggs, which were bought at 1 d. for 14, cost now  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. for 12; and fish, which would have been bought at 5 d. the dozen, now cost 1 s.; so in proportion with respect to every sort of provisions. The same proportion holds with respect to clothes and shoes; yet the people seem satisfied with their condition, live very comfortably, being generally very industrious, and receive a proportional high price for any commodity they bring to market; and the labouring



labouring people and servants have nearly double the wages of what they had about 20 years ago. A day-labourer gets his victuals and 6d. a-day, at any season; in harvest, 10d. and 1s. A man-servant, who can only drive a cart-horse, is allowed L. 4 yearly; and he who can plow and sow, gets L. 5 or L. 6. A woman-servant gets L. 2 a-year.

NUM.



## NUMBER IX.

## PARISH OF ROSENEATH.

(COUNTY OF DUNBARTON.)

*By the Rev Mr GEORGE DRUMMOND.**Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

THE ancient name of the parish was *Rosfnachoich*, which is a Gaelic word, signifying the “Virgin’s Promontory.” The parish is situated in the most westerly part of Dunbarton-shire, in the Synod of Glasgow and Air. It is a peninsula, nearly in the form of a parallelogram, being about 7 miles long and 2 broad, and is bounded on the land-side towards the N. by the parish of Row, on the W. by Lochlong, on the S. by the frith of Clyde, and on the E. by Gairloch. It is a continued ridge of rising ground, without any high hill or mountain, although some parts of it are rocky. The higher grounds are covered with heath; but the lands near the shore are green. The soil is various, part of it being fertile, and part barren; part of it deep, and part shallow. The air is naturally dry, but is frequently moistened with showers. It is in general healthy. There are several small rivulets; but, from the situation of the parish, no large rivers. We have a lake of about a mile in circumference, that abounds with perch.

*Coast,*



*Coast, Fisheries, &c.*—The extent of coast is about 13 miles. The shore is in some places flat and sandy, but in general rocky and low. The fish commonly caught are herring, cod, mackerel, skate, flounders and salmon. Salmon are sold from 1 d. to 3 d. a-pound. The other fish are sold by guess or number, according to their size. The salmon and herrings are caught with nets; the other fish with lines. Greenock and Glasgow are the markets in which the fish caught here are generally sold. There is a strong current in the Gairloch, between the parishes of Roseneath and Row, opposite to the church of Row, where there is a ferry. There are two bays on the coast, one called Callwattie, and the other Campfoil; in which last there is good anchorage, and safe harbour for ships of any burden. In the Duke of Argyle's park there is a remarkable rock, which, though now at a considerable distance from the shore, bears evident marks of having been washed by the sea. Its greatest perpendicular height is 34 feet. It is called Wallace's Loup, *i. e.* Leap, from a tradition, that the renowned Wallace, being closely pursued by a party of his enemies, jumped down this rock on horseback, and escaped unhurt; but his horse was killed by the fall, and was buried at the foot of the rock, where his grave is shewn.

*Produce, Rent, &c.*—The average produce of an acre is not easily estimated, both from the farmers being backward in disclosing their affairs, and from a want of knowing the number of acres in the parish. The parish could sufficiently supply its inhabitants with provisions, if they were not obliged to sell the produce for ready money, in order to pay their rents: When this is the case, they are under the necessity of buying provisions again for their own support; the purchase-money for which arises from the profits of the herring-fishery. The land-rent of the parish is about

L. 1000



L. 1000 Sterling. The annual rent of a cottage and yard is from 10 s. to 20 s. One salmon-fishery, with a piece of ground, lets for L. 30 a-year. The Duke of Argyle has discovered a slate-quarry in this parish, which at present promises pretty well. Several thousand slates are already dug out, formed, and shaped for use.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster, the number of the people was 521. At present, there are

|                       |     |                        |   |    |
|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|---|----|
| Under 10 years,       | 54  | Smiths,                | - | 3  |
| Between 10 & 20,      | 82  | Shoemakers,            | - | 4  |
| — 20 & 50,            | 140 | Tailors,               | - | 5  |
| — 50 & 70,            | 102 | Carpenters and appren- |   |    |
| Above 70 -            | 16  | tices,                 | - | 6  |
|                       | —   | Seamen,                | - | 6  |
| Total,                | 394 | Herring-fishermen,     |   | 96 |
|                       |     | Salmon-fishermen,      |   | 2  |
| Males above 10 years, | 180 | Ferry-men,             | - | 2  |
| Females ditto,        | 160 | Household servants,    |   | 22 |
| Farmers,              | 48  | Sceders,               | - | 5  |
| Weavers,              | 7   | Cameronians,           | - | 14 |
| Mason,                | 1   |                        |   |    |



T A B L E of Marriages, Births and Deaths, from January 1780, to ditto 1790.

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> |                | <i>Births.</i> | <i>Deaths.</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1780,         | -                 | 5              | 16             | 3              |
| 1781,         | -                 | 6              | 13             | 4              |
| 1782,         | -                 | 5              | 16             | 9              |
| 1783,         | -                 | 4              | 14             | 5              |
| 1784,         | -                 | 4              | 19             | 4              |
| 1785,         | -                 | 5              | 18             | 6              |
| 1786,         | -                 | 7              | 12             | 1              |
| 1787,         | -                 | 5              | 14             | 4              |
| 1788,         | -                 | 6              | 17             | 10             |
| 1789,         | -                 | 8              | 14             | 5              |
| Average,      | -                 | $5\frac{1}{2}$ | 15             | 5              |

There are 98 houses in the parish, all which are detached, there being no towns nor villages. The proportion of bachelors to married men and widowers, is as 2 to 3. Each marriage produces, at an average, nearly 3 children. The decrease in the population, from what it was 40 years ago, is not to be ascribed to the attraction of neighbouring manufactures, but is owing partly to one proprietor having taken into his own possession some farms upon which several families formerly lived, and partly to some other farms being let to fewer tenants; yet, even at present, we are stocked with inhabitants.

*Church, School, Poor, &c.*—The church was rebuilt in 1780; the manse in 1770. The stipend is mostly paid in victual; and, at an average, including the glebe, may be estimated at L. 110 Sterling. The Duke of Argyle is patron.



tron. The number of heritors is 3; 2 of them reside constantly in the parish; and sometimes the Duke of Argyll, who is the chief proprietor. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 8, 9 s. Sterling; average of fees and perquisites, L. 8, 7 s.; number of scholars in winter, 38; at other times fewer. The quarter-fees for reading are 1 s.; for reading and writing, 1 s 6 d.; for reading, writing, and arithmetic, 2 s.; for Latin, 2 s. 6 d.; but which last has not been taught for several years. The number of poor is 13. The annual amount of contributions for their relief, including the interest of the parochial funds, is L. 18 Sterling.

*Price of Provisions and Labour, &c.*—The present current prices of beef and veal, are from 5 d. to 7 d. the pound; formerly they were from 2½ d. to 4 d. the pound; mutton and lamb, at present, from 4 d. to 6 d. a-pound; formerly 2 d. to 3½ d. the pound. A hen, which now sells at 1 s. sold formerly at 4 d.; a chicken, now 4 d. and 5 d. sold formerly for 2 d.; butter, at present from 9 d. to 1 s. the pound, formerly at 3½ d. and 4 d.; skimmed-milk cheese, at present 3 d. formerly 1½ d. the pound. Barley sells now at 15 s. a-boll, Dunbarton-shire, 8 stone the boll, which is a peck and a half larger than Linlithgow measure, formerly it sold at 9 s. or 10 s.; oats, at present 13 s. a-boll, formerly 8 s. A common labourer's wages a-day, without victuals, are from 10 d. to 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d.; a carpenter or wright, 2 s. a-day; a mason, 2 s. a-day; a tailor, 8 d. a-day and his meat. Peats are the common fuel used here; some few families use coals, which are brought by water down the river Clyde, from the neighbourhood of Glasgow. The price of them at the shore here, including freight, &c. is 5 s. the cart. The cart should be 1200 weight. Peats are sold at 6 d. the creel. The average expence of a common



mon labourer and his wife may be estimated at L. 11 Sterling yearly: Many of them have actually brought up pretty large families upon the wages they receive, and that without running much in debt.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are no ale-houses, but plenty of whisky-houses, here, which are rather unfriendly to the morals of the people. Twelve new houses have been built within these 10 years; for each of these, except 3, an old house has been pulled down. There are almost no cottagers employed in agriculture, unless by the Duke of Argyle. It is difficult to say whether it is better to employ them or hired servants. It is believed, that the cheapest and most expeditious method of carrying on work in this part of the country, is letting it by the piece, when it can be done so. For these 20 years and upwards, no person whatever, residing within this parish, has been imprisoned, except one poor man a short time for a small debt. Here rats cannot exist: Many of these have, at different times, been accidentally imported from vessels lying upon the shore; but were never known to live 12 months in the place. From a prevailing opinion, that the soil of this parish is hostile to that animal, some years ago, a West India planter actually carried out to Jamaica several casks of Roseneath earth, with a view to kill the rats that were destroying his sugar-canes. It is said this had not the desired effect; so we lost a very valuable export. Had the experiment succeeded, this would have been a new and profitable trade for the proprietors; but perhaps, by this time, the parish of Roseneath might have been no more.



## NUMBER X.

## PARISH OF DRAINY.

(COUNTY OF ELGIN.)

*By the Rev. Mr. LEWIS GORDON.**Situation, Extent, Name and Soil.*

THE parish of Drainy is situated in the Synod of Moray, the county and presbytery of Elgin, and about 6 measured miles from the royal borough of that name. It is a peninsula, stretching E. and W. along the coast, about 2 measured miles in its greatest breadth, and 4 in its greatest length; bounded on the N. by the Moray frith; on the S. by the lake of Spynie, which separates it from the parish of Spynie; on the E. by the river of Lossie, which divides it from the parishes of St Andrew's and Urquhart; and on the W. by the parish of Duffus. Drainy consists of the 2 ancient parishes of Kinneddar and Ogstown, which were united soon after the Restoration. It obtained its name from a new central church being built, in consequence of this annexation, on the lands of Drainy, which probably were called so from draining the neighbouring swamps and marshes. In general, this part of the country is low and flat. There are only two small eminences that deserve the name of hills. Scarcely one half of the surface is arable, the greatest part consisting of barren moor-ground, covered with short heath, or coarse bent grass. The land under cultivation is very fertile, part of it being



a rich loam or clay, and part a light, black, or sandy foil.

*Rent, Manufactures, &c.*—The valued rent is L. 3044, 17s. 4d. Scotch; and the real rent may be estimated at about L. 1200 Sterling, though this must depend on the price of grain. There is only one residing heritor, who possesses two-thirds of the property; the remaining third belongs to the only other heritor. It is a great misfortune that no manufactures have been established here, as scarcely any part of Scotland is better adapted for them. The women spin linen-yarn; by which, with the greatest application, they can only earn from 2d. to 3d. a-day; and even this yarn, except what is necessary for our own consumption, is exported (unwrought) to Edinburgh, Glasgow, or the N. of England. The 2 hills, mentioned above, abound with excellent quarries of white and yellow free-stone, which is not to be found any where else in the Moray frith. About 20 masons, including apprentices, and nearly double that number of labourers, are constantly employed in quarrying and dressing stones, to supply the demand for that article from this and the neighbouring counties.

*Village of Lossiemouth, Imports and Exports.*—The principal village here is Lossiemouth, a sea-port belonging to the town of Elgin. It contains from 150 to 200 inhabitants. There are no vessels belonging to the place, except 1 sloop and 2 fishing-boats. But during the last year 49 vessels, from 55 to 60 tons burden, at an average, entered this harbour. The imports and exports were as follow:

|                         |   |             |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| IMPORTS.—English coals, | - | 20 vessels. |
| Scotch coals,           | - | 6           |
| London goods,           | - | 10          |

---

Carried forward, 36



|           |                  |             |
|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| IMPORTS.— | Brought forward, | 36 vessels. |
|           | Leith goods,     | 4           |
|           | Tanners bark,    | 3           |
|           | Native salt,     | 2           |
|           | Bottles,         | 1           |
|           | Slates,          | 1           |
|           | Iron,            | 1           |
|           | Lime,            | 1           |
|           | Total            | 49          |

EXPORTS—were 20 cargoes barley and oats, at an average, about 400 bolls each, and an inconsiderable quantity of peltry. The quantity of corn formerly exported from this county, was reckoned, at an average, 20,000 bolls yearly. But it is probable this exportation will, in future, be somewhat reduced, as the smuggling of foreign spirits is now, in a great measure, suppressed, and whisky is substituted in their place. Twenty licensed stills are at present employed in this county; and a considerable quantity of the spirits is manufactured, and consumed in the highlands of Moray and Inverness-shire.

*Fishing Towns.*—There are other 2 creeks in the parish that admit boats, Causea and Stotfield; at the latter there are at present 3 fishing-boats, which, with the 2 at Lossiemouth, are a vast benefit to the town of Elgin, and to the country at large, in supplying white fish. The rent derived from these fishing-boats is L. 5 Sterling each yearly: But the proprietors are obliged to furnish a new boat every seventh year, which costs, when rigged and complete, from L. 18 to L. 20 Sterling. The fish commonly taken on this coast, are cod, skate, hollibut, haddocks, whittings, saiths or eudies, with plenty of crabs and lobsters; but none of them  
in



in greater quantity than to answer the demand for home consumption.

*River and Lakes.*—The river Loffie has its source in the hills of Dallas; and, after a course of near 26 measured miles, discharges itself into the sea at the town of Loffie-mouth, in the N. E. corner of this parish. It is too small to be navigable beyond its mouth, and its bed too sandy to be favourable to salmon; yet about 3 or 4 score of that fish have sometimes been taken in a season, at its entry into the sea. It abounds with excellent red spotted trout, from 1 lb. to 3 lb. and even sometimes 4 lb. in weight, called here phinnocks.—The loch of Spynie is a beautiful piece of fresh water, about 1 mile broad and 3 miles long, which discharges itself into the river Loffie, about a mile from the sea. It abounds with eel and pike, and water-fowl of various kinds; such as, swans, geese, duck, teal, &c. This loch, at some former period, appears evidently to have formed a bay of the sea, and to have been connected with another loch in the parish of Urquhart, called Cotts, which is only half a mile distant. The mouth of this bay is formed by 2 banks of hard gravel about 500 yards asunder, and the water of Loffie passing through this opening, seems, in a series of ages, to have carried down such a quantity of sand, as to have at length separated these lochs from each other, and shut up their communication with the sea. The beds of shells all around the loch of Spynie, and the names of places in the neighbourhood, clearly prove that it has formerly been connected with the sea; and there are also some written evidences of the same fact.

*Church, Stipend, Poor, School, &c.*—The church was built more than 100 years ago, and looks tolerably decent without, but is very naked and ill finished within. Our  
churches



churches are, in general, exceedingly cold and dirty, and there is little hope of this evil being soon remedied. The patronage belongs to the family of Gordonston. The stipend is 72 bolls of barley and oats, and L. 50 Sterling of money, with L. 2, 10 s. for communion-elements. The manse and offices are new; the glebe and gardens contain about 5 Scotch acres. The old church of Ogftown is now converted into a burying place for the family of Gordonston, and was rebuilt some time ago with great taste, in the ancient Gothic style. The vestiges of the old church are to be seen in the church-yard at Kinneddar, and adjoining to these the remains of an old palace or castle belonging to the Bishop of Moray, where he resided before the castle of Spynie was built.—The parochial funds are very inconsiderable, the whole income not exceeding L. 20 Sterling; and this sum, out of which the salary of the session-clerk, beadle, and other parochial charges, must be paid, is all the provision for 40 or 50 poor.—At the parish-school, about 30 or 40 children are instructed in Latin, English, writing and arithmetic. The salary of the schoolmaster is 12 bolls barley, besides the emoluments arising from the office of session-clerk, which is commonly conjoined with that of schoolmaster, and amounts to L. 3 Sterling, exclusive of a few trifling perquisites.

*Population, &c.*—The return to Dr Webster was 1174 souls. At the beginning of the year 1791, there were—

|          |   |   |   |            |
|----------|---|---|---|------------|
| Males,   | — | — | — | 480        |
| Females, | — | — | — | 560        |
| Total,   | — | — | — | <hr/> 1040 |



|                                                                                         |   |   |   |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Farmers,                                                                                | — | — | — | 68  |
| Seamen,                                                                                 | — | — | — | 37  |
| Masons,                                                                                 | — | — | — | 13  |
| Weavers,                                                                                | — | — | — | 5   |
| Tailors,                                                                                | — | — | — | 5   |
| Smiths,                                                                                 | — | — | — | 3   |
| Joiners,                                                                                | — | — | — | 4   |
| Merchants,                                                                              | — | — | — | 3   |
| Labourers,                                                                              | — | — | — | 35  |
| The remainder being widows, married servants,<br>and persons of mixed professions, were |   |   |   | 57  |
| Male-servants,                                                                          | — | — | — | 87  |
| Female-servants,                                                                        | — | — | — | 95  |
| Apprentices,                                                                            | — | — | — | 15  |
| Married couples,                                                                        | — | — | — | 159 |
| Children of the above, and residing with their<br>parents,                              |   |   |   | 334 |
| Widowers and widows,                                                                    | — | — | — | 64  |

In the above list, those only are reckoned farmers who live solely by that occupation: But several other people in the parish rent a few acres of ground for the accommodation of their families.

*Births, Marriages and Burials, for these last eight years.*

| Years. | Births. | Males. | Females. | Marriages. | Burials. |
|--------|---------|--------|----------|------------|----------|
| 1783   | 29      | 18     | 11       | 8          | 16       |
| 1784   | 34      | 18     | 16       | 11         | 25       |
| 1785   | 32      | 12     | 20       | 9          | 19       |
| 1786   | 31      | 12     | 19       | 9          | 27       |
| 1787   | 31      | 19     | 12       | 13         | 15       |
| 1788   | 34      | 20     | 14       | 9          | 24       |
| 1789   | 35      | 18     | 17       | 14         | 30       |
| 1790   | 35      | 21     | 14       | 6          | 23       |
| Sums   | 261     | 138    | 123      | 79         | 179      |

The



The number of inhabitants has not varied much for these last 20 years; vibrating generally from 1020 to 1050.

In general, the climate of this country is mild and wholesome. There is more dry weather in the narrow slip along the Moray-shire coast, than in most other parts in Scotland, owing to the land being very low and plain, and the clouds being attracted by the high hills to the southward; so that often in summer, when this parish is burned up with drought, rain falls in abundance in the high country. One happy consequence of this peculiar situation is the goodness of the harvests; even in 1782 the greatest part of the crop here was got in without damage.—There are no extraordinary instances of longevity here, nor are there any diseases peculiar to this district. Agues were very common about 25 or 30 years ago, in the marshy parts of Drainy and Duffus, but have for some time past totally disappeared. The complaints that prevail most among the lower classes of people, are obstinate coughs and colds, attended with pain of the breast, difficulty of breathing, and swelling in the extremities, especially in the winter-season, and are very fatal. They seem to be occasioned by the coldness and dampness of the houses, and the great scarcity of fuel, for there are no peats nearer than the distance of 10 measured miles. If the attention of Government could be awakened to the many evils arising from the impolitic tax on coals, and could be prevailed upon to substitute some other revenue in its stead, it would be of essential benefit to the North of Scotland in general, and to this province in particular.

*Produce, Rent, &c.*—All the kinds of grain raised in Scotland succeed here; but barley is the principal crop. Flax is also cultivated, but to no great extent. Potatoes thrive admirably well in our light ground, and serve for  
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the subsistence of the poor, at least a third part of the year. Agriculture is the chief employment of the people; yet the modern improvements in husbandry are only in their infancy. Inclosures are yet far from being general. The introduction of turnips and sown grasses promises to be of infinite advantage, as proper food for our cattle was scarce both in summer and winter. There are in the parish in all about 96 ploughs; the number of horses is from 300 to 400; the black cattle about double that number; sheep from 1500 to 2000, and from 20 to 30 swine or hogs.—The rent of land, when paid in grain, is from a boll to a boll and a half of bear or oats, Linlithgow measure, the Scotch acre; but it is the practice here to allow 5 firlots of oats to a boll, being nearly equal to an English quarter. Lands, when set for money alone, give from 15s. to 20s. and 21s. the acre.—In some part of this parish the teinds are drawn in kind, that is, the tenth shock or sheaf is carried off the field before the corns are stacked, and this is commonly reckoned equal to a third of the rent actually paid.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—The price of bear and oats for these last 10 years, has not been less than 15s. the boll, at an average. Beef and mutton commonly sell in the Elgin market from 3d. to 4d. the lb. Amsterdam weight; geese from 1s. 6d. to 2s.; hens and ducks from 8d. to 9d. each; eggs 1½d. the dozen.—The ordinary wages of male day-labourers here, without victuals, are 8d. in summer, and of females 4d.; but both get higher wages in harvest. Men-servants employed in husbandry commonly get from L. 5 to L. 8, and women-servants from 30s. to 40s. a-year, and their victuals. Victual at the Reformation was converted at half a merk Scotch the boll.

*Minerals,*



*Minerals, Rocks, &c.*—In the Coulart hill, between Lofsiemouth and Stotfield, there are appearances of lead: Many detached masses of ore are to be seen in the rocks. Some adventurers, however, lately came from England, and after spending above L. 500 Sterling, could discover no vein of ore worth the expence of working. The hill of Causea, or Cave-sea, consists of one uninterrupted mass of free-stone, more than a mile long, divided into horizontal strata of different degrees of thickness and hardness, but generally soft and friable. This hill forms a very bold shore; and the violence of the winds and surge, has cut and excavated the free-stone rock so as to form many curious arches, caves, and pyramids, of various sizes and figures. These rocks are covered, in summer, with different kinds of plants of variegated colours, and are frequented by crows, pigeons, gulls, and other birds, in prodigious numbers. In the summer time, the noise of the sea below, the varied cries of the birds, the beauty of the flowers, and the grandeur of the rocks, all heighten the scenery of the place. There was also at Lofsiemouth, in a natural cave, a small hermitage, not exceeding 10 feet square, called St Gerardine's Cave, which commanded a view of the shore as far as Cul-len, and was adorned with a handsome Gothic door and window; but these artificial decorations were pulled down about 25 years ago, by a rude shipmaster; and in the course of working the quarries, the whole cave has since been totally destroyed. There was a spring in the rock above the hermitage, called St Gerardine's Well; but neither this, nor any other springs in the parish, have acquired fame for their medicinal virtues.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The inhabitants of this parish, like all others employed in husbandry, are robust and healthy. Their general character is that of a sober, honest,  
peaceable



peaceable people, regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion, rather grave than lively, seldom indulging themselves in any relaxation or diversion, excepting the young people, who sometimes take a dance at Christmas, or at a penny-wedding\*. Crimes of great enormity are unknown here. There has not been an instance of suicide during the 22 years of the present minister's incumbency; nor has any native of this parish been hanged or banished, in the memory of man. This regularity of conduct must in part be ascribed to the poverty and depression of the people; for the situation of the small tenants in this country, in general, is far from being comfortable. Few of them have any capital to begin the world with; and fewer have any inclination to adopt the modern improvements in husbandry, while the rents of their farms, and the wages of their servants, have of late been considerably advanced. The last article, in particular, is nearly doubled within these 20 years past. One advantage they derive from their vicinity to the sea, in being supplied from the shores with a considerable quantity of sea-weed, which is a valuable manure.

It is perhaps a singular circumstance, that, in this parish, there is no lawyer, writer, attorney, physician, surgeon, apothecary, negro, Jew, gipsy, Englishman, Irishman, foreigner of any description, nor family of any religious sect or denomination, except the Established Church.

There are 4 ale-houses, and fewer would hardly accommodate the neighbourhood, as there is generally a resort of strangers to sea-port towns. There can be no doubt but  
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\* A penny-wedding is when the expence of the marriage entertainment is not defrayed by the young couple, or their relations, but by a club among the guests. Two hundred people of both sexes, will sometimes be convened on an occasion of this kind.



an increase of them would prove a real nuisance, and contribute materially to corrupt the morals of the people.

The only language here is Scotch ; but the pronunciation is gradually approaching nearer to the English\*. Gaelic is not spoken nearer than 20 miles ; and very few of the names of places here seem derived from it.

There are no bridges in this parish, excepting a small one of 3 arches on the outlet from the loch of Spynie ; nor is there any on the river Loffie below Elgin, though much wanted. The roads here are all made by the statute-labour ; and though better than they were formerly, are still far from what they ought to be : And this is the more inexcusable, as they are more easily made here than in most counties in Scotland. On the highland road to Edinburgh, a traveller meets with no turnpikes or tolls till he arrives at Perth.

I have often thought, that the destruction of grain by pigeons was much greater than commonly supposed. There are 4 pigeon-houses here ; each of which, at a moderate computation, consumes 20 bolls of corn annually.

\* The greatest peculiarity of the Moray dialect is sounding Wh like F ; What, Where, When, for instance, are pronounced by the vulgar, Făt, Făr, Făn.



## NUMBER XI.

## PARISH OF ARDERSIER.

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS.)

*By the Rev. Mr PRYSE CAMPBELL.**Name, Situation, Extent, Soil and Surface.*

**A**RDERSIER is written *Ardnasfeer* in the charters of the parish. According to tradition, it obtained its name from a great number of carpenters being drowned in the ferry, opposite to the point of Arderfier; this accident happened, it is said, in the year in which the Cathedral at Elgin, and that at Channonry or Fortrose, were built. In the Gaelic language, *saor* is “a carpenter,” and *ard* is “high.” That part of the parish adjoining to the sea, and by which it is washed, is exceeding high, upwards of 100 yards, and it is probable enough that the parish might have received its name from such an accident; but it is fully as natural to conclude that it obtained its name from its high situation, and that *Ardna saor* (*Ardnasfeer*) is a corruption from *ard'n Fhaobhair*, which signifies “the high edge” or “height of the edge,” *i. e.* of the hill. The parish is in the presbytery of Nairn, and Synod of Moray. Its length is two and a half miles, and breadth the same. It is bounded by the parish of Petty,  
on



on the W. and S.; by the parish of Nairn, on the E.; by the Moray frith, on the N. The greatest part of the old cultivated land lies high, but much of what is not in culture is low. There is a great variety of soils; deep black mould, strong clay, light black mould, and shallow sandy soil. The parish in general is very fertile. The shore very sandy and flat from Inverness to Nairn.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants, according to the oldest people now alive, would not exceed 300, 60 or even 50 years ago. Dr Webster's state was 428; the amount of the inhabitants now is 802. Males 385; females 417. In the village of Campbelltown, which owes its birth to the garrison of Fort-George, there are 293 souls. The garrison of Fort-George, exclusive of the marching regiment stationed in it, but including 3 companies of invalids; consists of 496 souls, of whom are 246 males, and 250 females.

|                                                                             |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| The annual average of births for 10 years past, is                          | 20  |
| The number of deaths in 1789,                                               | 13  |
| ——— marriages in 1789,                                                      | 5   |
| Under 10 years of age,                                                      | 179 |
| The number of fishermen, women and children included, males 66, females 61, | 127 |
| Male labouring servants,                                                    | 41  |
| Female ditto,                                                               | 40  |

None are under any necessity to leave the parish for want of employment, but many go south in summer and harvest, owing to the difference of wages.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Of black cattle there are about 300; horses, 100; sheep, about 500. The parish contains 1985 acres, exclusive of the king's farm; in raising corn



and undergrafs, about 1018 acres; in muir, 966; under artificial grafs, about 168. It fupplies itfelf, and exports about 300 bolls. The rent of the parifh, including the farm fold to Government when the garrifon of Fort-George was built, is L. 365; the rent of that farm feparately is L. 50. The rent for an acre of the beft arable land is 30 s.; of inferior land, is from 5 s. to 7 s. 6 d. This parifh is moftly in the poffeffion of 1 farmer, but the greateft part he fubfets into farms from 20 to 30 acres. Great quantities of fea-ware fit for manure are fometimes thrown in by the tides. There are fcarcely any inclofures except a few of feal or earth. The common people are inimical to them, as they are almoft to every proper method of cultivating their land. In 1782 and 1783, the people were in a miferable fituation, many of them would have perifhed, had it not been for the grain imported from other countries: The boll of Englifh peafe, barley and rye, fold for 28 s.

*Church, Stipend and Poor.*—The church and manfe, which are in a ruinous ftate, were built with clay in 1769. The ftipend is 80 bolls of barley, and L. 10 of money; the glebe is worth L. 8. Mr Campbell of Calder is patron. The number of poor is 50; the only fund for their relief is the annual collections, which amount to L. 15.

*Mifcellaneous Observations.*—The parifh has its advantages and difadvantages. Its vicinity to Fort-George, where every thing may be fold, is a particular conveniency, and the ware obtained from the fhore is of great value. The difadvantages are want of woods and ftones. The air is extremely fharp; in winter very piercing. The Gaelic and Englifh languages are fpoken equally well. The names of all the towns are derived from the Gaelic; for inftance, *Balnagofen*, “Smith town;” *Balnafian* “Fin-  
“gal’s



“gal’s town,” &c. The common price of beef, veal, mutton, lamb, pork, is 3d. the lb.; a goose 2s.; a duck 6d.; a chicken 3d.; a hen 6d.; butter 8d. the lb.  $17\frac{1}{4}$  oz. to the lb.; cheese 5s. the stone; wheat 24s. barley 16s. and 18s. oats 16s. the boll. Labourers in husbandry receive 8d. a-day. By the better sort, coal is the fuel made use of, by the country-people peats and turf. The average price of coal the barrel is 2s.; peats 8d. the load, about 70 peats to a load. The coal is brought from Sunderland and Newcastle. The moss is 3 miles distant, and is almost exhausted. Male servants for labouring receive L. 4 and L. 5 a-year, female from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2. The Scotch plough is used by the common tenants; the English plough, and Lord Kaimes’s plough with a chain, by the principal farmers. There are 8 boats, from 5 to 8 tons burden, employed in white and herring fishing; the herrings are chiefly sold to fishing buffes. Besides herring, the fish produced on the coast are, haddocks, cod, salmon: The prices have been high and variable for 6 years back, owing to scarcity: They are sold to the inhabitants of Fort-George, Inverness, and the country around. Eight seamen entered into the navy last war; 4 have entered this year. The roads are exceeding good. The statute-labour is exacted. Where this parish is divided from that of Nairn, there is a stone about 6 feet high and 3 broad: This stone in the Gaelic language obtains the name of *claoch na cabbac*; in the English, or rather Scotch, “cabbac stone.” *Cabbac* or *cabbac*, signifies a cheese. The report of tradition is, that it was erected there over a chieftain who fell in a scuffle which originated about a cheese, in the town of Inverness; the death of one of the chiefs put an end to the battle, where the stone is erected. This story is told by the oldest people in the country, and obtains credit.



## NUMBER XII.

## PARISH OF TEALING,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN GELLATLY.**Name, Situation, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

THE name of the parish, (sometimes corruptly spelled *Telin*), is Gaelic, and signifies “a country of brooks or waters;” in which, indeed, this small district abounds. It is situated in the presbytery of Dundee, and Synod of Angus and Mearns. It lies along the south side of the Seidlaw hills, and is about 3 English miles from E. to W.; and from 2 to 1 N. and S. exclusive of two small farms which run out about 2 miles farther to the N.; and a third entirely detached from it on the W. It is bounded on the W. by the parish of Auchterhouse; by those of Glammis and Kinnettles on the N.; by Inverarity and Murrose on the E.; and on the S. by Mains and Strathmartine. Its boundary on the N. is, for the greater part, a line running along the ridge of the hills just mentioned; on the S. the little water of Fithie. The only hills in the parish are those of Seidlaw, the most considerable range in this county next to the Grampians. Their tops are covered with heath; farther down, there is



a good deal of broom, interspersed with patches of short grafs, affording good pasture for young black cattle. On the most easterly within this parish, is a beautiful plantation of firs, containing not less than 150 acres. The summit of the highest, called Craig Owl, is found, by actual measurement, to be 1100 feet above the plain; but the plain itself is full 500 feet above the level of the sea. There is some grey slate, a good deal of moor-stone, and plenty of free-stone. The last, however, lies rather deep, and is somewhat difficult to be got at.

The cultivated part of the parish forms a plain gently declining towards the S.; of a soil light and gravelly towards the hill, rather fitter for pasture than tillage, black, deep and rich, sometimes inclining to clay in the middle; in the southern parts rather marshy, and mostly used as pasture, or natural meadow. The great fault of the soil in general is an excess of moisture, owing partly to the vicinity of the hill, but chiefly to a stratum of clay, or rather clay and gravel, which runs immediately under the whole of it. The air is rather moist and cold, yet not, upon the whole, unhealthful. Sickly people from other quarters, sometimes find a summer's residence in it beneficial. The rheumatism is the only distemper remarkably prevalent. It may in part be owing to the nature of the air; but more probably to the damp earthen floors, and insufficient doors and windows of the greater part of the houses.

*Population.*—The population of this parish, according to the return made to Dr Webster, amounted to 735 souls. At present the number of souls is 802; of families 158, persons to a family, 5. The people live all of them in single houses, or in hamlets. The increase in the population is to be ascribed to the erection of some new farms. Several young people every year move to the southward,  
to



to learn the handicraft trades. The annual average of births is 23; of marriages, 6; of burials, 18. A woman, about 20 years ago, died here, at the age of 102. There are 5 heritors, only one of whom resides. The number of considerable farmers is 13. Besides these, there may be 15 or 16 who possess from 10 to 30 acres each, and 1 or 2 horses. The other great class of inhabitants is weavers, of which there are about 90 employed in the manufacture of coarse linens, which find a ready market at Dundee. The flax is mostly foreign, and brought from the town just mentioned; but the far greater part of the yarn is spun in the parish. Two families of Independents are the only dissenters from the Established Church.

*Cultivation, Produce, &c.*—Water has been long used as a manure in several parts of this county, and in other quarters of the kingdom; but as the subject of watering in general, is either altogether omitted, or but slightly mentioned by several of our best writers on husbandry, the subsequent account of the mode of watering land, adopted by Mr Scrymgeour of Tealing, may be of some utility.

Mr Scrymgeour waters no lands but such as are of a dry black or loamy soil. Sand can receive but little benefit from water, as it cannot retain it for any time. Clay is rather chilled, and (especially if the following season prove remarkably dry) too much hardened by it. He does not water any field till it has been at least two years in grass. Perhaps the year before it is broken up, is the most proper for the operation. He finds the spring and autumn to be the fittest seasons for it. If it be done in the spring, it should be before the grass has made any considerable advances, otherwise that crop will be apt to suffer by it. If in autumn, it will be proper to draw off the water before the strong frosts set in. Previous to the operation, it is necessary to spread the mole-hills



hills with great care; as also with the foot, to press down the run of moles, so far as it can be discerned, as it is very apt to draw off the water in an improper direction. The process commences with the drawing of water-furrows. First, one broad and deep furrow is drawn in the crown, and from end to end of the head-ridge, on the highest side of the field. This is to serve as a channel for the whole water you intend to make use of; and must be enlarged to a sufficient capacity with the spade, if it cannot be done with the plough. If the ridges be level, another furrow is drawn parallel to the first, of equal length to it, and about 8 or 10 yards distant from it; and furrows in this manner are drawn down through the whole field. The more the ground slopes, the more numerous these furrows must be; and care must always be taken, that the sward turned up by the plough, be thrown upon the lower side.

The water is then brought in at the highest corner of the field, and allowed to run in the channel or great furrow, for the breadth of 4, 5, or perhaps 6 ridges, according to the quantity of the stream. It is then dammed up, when upon a small opening being made in the lower side of the furrow, opposite to the crown of each ridge, it pours itself in an equal manner into the field below. It is soon intercepted by the next furrow, which serves not only as a channel for it, but as a dam-dike to make it spread itself over a considerable part of the ground immediately above: When it begins to overflow, let small apertures be made in the furrow opposite to those mentioned before, and for the same purpose. In this manner is it sent from furrow to furrow, till it reaches the lowest side of the field. When the first 5 or 6 ridges are done sufficiently, (that is, when they are saturated with the water, which may be known by the soft swelling of the ground,  
and



and the bright verdure of the grafs), open the main furrow againſt other 5 or 6, and thus go along the whole.

When the ridges are much raiſed in the crown, as is ſtill the caſe in many parts of the country, the furrows muſt be made in a different manner. One communicating with the firſt or great furrow muſt be drawn down the crown of every ridge, unleſs it was cloven when laid down in grafs. From this again, at every 6 or 8 yards diſtance, others muſt be made, pointing obliquely down the ſides of the ridge, till they meet and form an angle with others drawn in the ſame manner on the next ridge, taking care, as in the caſe above mentioned, that the plough throw the earth toward the lower ſide. The water is then let down into the crown-furrows, and ſtopped at proper diſtances, ſo as to make it ſpread over both ſides of the ridge.

It would be vain to attempt to give directions for every particular ſituation or ſurface of ground. The great general rule is to draw your furrows in ſuch a manner as to diſtribute the water equally and plentifully over every part. By attending to this, and taking a careful ſurvey of the field, an intelligent ploughman will very ſoon ſee what he has to do. This alſo is to be attended to, after the water is brought upon the ground, and it will require a daily viſit from a careful hand with a ſpade, to remove obſtructions that may have dropt into the furrows; to place others properly; and to lead the water to ſuch heights and dry ſpots as may have been overlooked. Mr S. ſometimes employed a man for this ſole purpoſe. It is ever to be kept in mind, that it is only when made to ſtand or ſtagnate on the ground, that water operates to advantage: But whether this be by depoſiting on the ſoil ſuch rich particles, as make the immediate food of plants, or by diſſolving and macerating it; or which is moſt probable,



bable, by both these means, it is not necessary here to determine. Indeed Mr S. is inclined to think that it excites a proper fermentation, and the softness which the soil thereby acquires and preserves for a considerable time after, together with some other circumstances, seems to favour the supposition.

While the ground is under water, and even for some days after it is laid dry, no cattle of any kind should be allowed to set foot on it. The water should be withdrawn rather gradually as otherwise, at least in a dry season, the grass will be a little apt to decay. There is no striking difference between the effects of water which runs from pools, or soft water of any kind, and those of hard water immediately from the spring. The former is, no doubt, preferable, but the latter will serve the purpose very well; and this seems to be agreeable to the experiments of Dr Home.—Such is the method of watering land, which Mr S. has followed with great success for nearly the space of fifty years. There is one inclosure of his which, by this management, was brought from an exhausted state into good heart, and preserved an uncommon degree of fertility for a succession of crops (one of them wheat) without fallow, lime or marl, and with very moderate assistance from dung.

With respect to the subject in general, it may be observed, that water not only serves to enrich the land for future crops of corn, but also generally secures an early and a large crop of grass the year in which it is applied, a matter of considerable importance, especially in a dry and backward spring. Perhaps the only inconveniency attending it is its encouraging weeds of a certain kind, such as, thistles, ragweed, &c.; but this appears to be fully balanced by the destruction it occasions to weeds of another  
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kind, such as commonly infest dry lands, but never thrive in water.

As to grain and other crops, it appears from several circumstances, that wheat was cultivated long ago to a considerable extent. The culture of it was revived about 10 or 12 years since; when, after a very fair trial by a number of hands, it was entirely given up as unprofitable. It was found to ripen late and to impoverish the soil. Oats, barley, and a few hasting pease, are the only kinds of grain raised at present. About 20 acres may be employed in the culture of flax. Turnip and potatoes are raised on every farm, as are also clover and rye-grass. Some yams have been planted within these few years, and the farmers seem to approve of them.

Of forest-trees the ash, fir, elm and beech, thrive well. Oaks of a large size have been dug up in some mossy parts of the plain, and some that have been planted of late are sufficiently forward. Fruit-trees grow much to wood, and it must be owned difficult to raise fruit: The difficulty however is sensibly decreasing, both the air and soil becoming more kindly by draining and planting the latter, particularly on the east.

The number of horses is about 200, about one third of which may be reared in the parish. Black cattle being used in labour now, there are about 30 kept for that purpose; cows about 300. With regard to sheep, it is remarkable, that about 25 years ago there were 12 small flocks in the parish, but that now there is not a single animal of the kind, save a few kept by a gentleman mostly for the use of his own family. They were found destructive to the sown grass, and liable to perish for want of proper shelter. Young black cattle have been, with great advantage, put in their place.

The



The number of arable acres is about 3000. The parish does much more than supply itself with the articles of oat-meal, barley, beef, ale, whisky and potatoes. It may send to Dundee and other places,

|                                |   |         |
|--------------------------------|---|---------|
| Barley, 900 bolls, at 13s. 4d. | - | L. 600  |
| Oat-meal, 500 ditto, at ditto, | - | 330     |
| Calves for the butchers, 150,  | - | 100     |
| Coarse linens, to the value of | - | 4000    |
| Black cattle, 200,             | - | 1400    |
| Hay, 10,000 stone,             | - | 330     |
| Whisky,                        | - | 200     |
| Milk, butter and cheese,       | - | 500     |
|                                |   | <hr/>   |
|                                |   | L. 7460 |

The people always sow as soon as the season and the condition of the land permit; it must, however, be owned that they reap rather later than some of their neighbours. Harvest commonly begins about the 10th September. There are about 280 acres in wood; arable inclosed, 550. The land-rent is about L. 1400.

*Church and Stipend, School and Poor.*—The church is of very ancient foundation, having been first built by Boniface, a legate or rather missionary from Rome, about A. D. 690. The present fabric, however, bears no marks of antiquity, and is but indifferent both as to style and condition. A few fragments of carved stones seem to indicate that the original church was an elegant Gothic structure. The stipend is about 2000 merks Scots, exclusive of the manse and garden; as to the glebe, it would be, as it generally is in the country, rather a disadvantage, if the incumbent had not been so lucky as to get a small farm. The Crown is patron.

The



The average number of scholars at the parochial school is only about 30, owing to the badness of the roads here in the winter-season, and the nearness of the skirts of the parish to the schools of the parishes around. The quarterly payments are, for English, 1s. 6d.; for writing, 2s.; for arithmetic, 2s. 6d. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 6 Sterling, and as session-clerk he receives L. 2, with about L. 1 more in perquisites for baptisms and marriages. His whole emoluments, exclusive of a house, garden and small glebe of about an English acre, do not exceed L. 17 Sterling. The number of constant poor is 4; of those who receive occasional supplies, 5.

The collections weekly, amount in the year, to L. 15

The rent of seats belonging to the kirk-session, to - 6

The interest of L. 200 Sterling, to - 10

At present there is not one beggar.

*Wages, &c.*—Common wages of a day-labourer in husbandry, 8d. and victuals; in time of harvest, 1s. a man, and 9d. a woman, besides victuals. About 40 years ago, wages were 6d. or 4d. and victuals. As a child, in this part of the country, commonly finds employment at 8 or 9 years of age, a labourer has seldom, entirely at least, upon his hands above 3 children at once; that number he brings up without assistance. The incumbent does not remember any man's asking assistance from the poors funds on account of the number of his children, however great, if he and they were in health. If they are all well, his wife, besides taking care of her family, may earn a shilling a-week by spinning; nay, provided they have a cow, which is generally the case, she may earn other two shillings in the same space by the sale of butter for 3 months in the year. When a ploughman does not eat in the family, he is allowed for victuals 6 bolls and a half of oatmeal in the year,



year, and a Scotch pint of milk a-day : Of the meal he can easily sell one boll after supplying himself. The wages of a good ploughman, in general, are from L. 8 to L. 9 Sterling, annually ; those of a maid-servant, including her bounties, as they are called, L. 3. The prices of most kinds of provisions are double of what they were 30 years ago ; oat-meal, however, has risen little more than one fourth.

*Antiquities.*—On the farm of Priesttown, near the Glamis road, was discovered some years ago a subterraneous building of a very irregular construction. It was composed of large flat stones, without any cement, and consisted of 2 or 3 apartments, not above 5 feet wide, covered with stones of the same kind. Some wood-ashes, several fragments of large earthen vessels, and one of the ancient hand-mills called querns, were the only things found in it. It was mostly filled up with rich black earth. A little westward from the house of Tealing, about 60 or 70 years ago, was discovered an artificial cave or subterraneous passage, such as is sometimes called by the country people a weem. It was composed of large loose stones ; was about 4 feet high, and as many wide, and was said to be traced up to a considerable length. There were found in it a broad earthen vessel, and an instrument resembling an adze, both of them formed very neatly. It still exists, but is covered up. On the farm of Balckembeck are several great round stones placed in a circle, evidently the remains of a Druidical temple. In two sandy hillocks, within these 20 years, were found stone coffins, containing the skull and bones of a human body, with urns of earthen ware and ashes in them. About 30 years ago there was found in the mires, a vessel somewhat resembling a kettle, about 2 feet in diameter, and 1 foot deep. Its materials (brass mixed



mixed with some other metal) and its elegant shape, gave it much the appearance of an antique vase. It was melted down, but its substance is still preserved in the form of 2 modern pots. It is pretty plain from *Tacit. in Vit. Agric.* that the Romans were well acquainted with the country between the Grampian mountains and the frith of Tay.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people, in general, are of the middle size. They are exceedingly industrious, economical, rather plainer in dress than their neighbours, and not fond of a military life. Generally they are charitable and very helpful to one another. The condition of the people, for the most part, is rather more than tolerable, and they are apparently contented with it. It might, however, be, in some measure, improved at no great expence, by making their cottages more comfortable and convenient, by raising better fences round their gardens, and introducing among them the culture of a few more nourishing vegetables.

The roads, in general, are bad, and have been much neglected. An act, however, has been lately obtained for turnpikes throughout the county, and is already begun to be put in execution, but many people think they will prove too expensive.

The rent of the greater part of the open land is about 9s. the acre. Some, however, in the hands of the smaller tenants, gives from 15s. to 20s. Inclosed ground lets from 15s. to 25s. according to its quality. The farms are from about 100 to 150 acres; two farmers, however, possess considerably more. The number of farms is rather increasing, and many cottars and subtenants have, within these 20 years, been put immediately under their lairds.

About



About one sixth of the arable land is inclosed, and all the farmers, it is believed, are convinced of the advantages of inclosing. The fences are mostly of stone.

The people have improved much in dress and manners. Among the men, instead of the bonnet and coarse home-made woollens, the hat, English cloth and cotton stuffs, are much worn, and almost every ploughman has his silver watch. The women still retain the plaid, but among the better sort it is now sometimes of silk or lined with silk, and numbers of them, on occasions, dress in ribbons, printed cottons, white stockings and lasting shoes. The labouring servants, formerly ignorant and lazy, are now generally skilful and laborious. The wages both of men and women are doubled. The Sunday's collection, and all the poor's funds, are doubled. The land-rent is more than doubled. The farmers live in a much more sociable manner, and entertain with great hospitality. Their houses, formerly covered with thatch, are now generally slated, and contain 2 floors. There are some among them that still adhere to the old method of farming, yet a considerable number are well acquainted with the principles of the new husbandry, and practise accordingly. They fallow; they manure with compost, marl and lime, some of the last brought even from England; and they crop judiciously.

The heritors, notwithstanding the disadvantage most of them lie under by residing at a distance, have all done something in the way of improvement. As Mr Scrymgeour of Tealing resides on the spot, his improvements have been extensive in proportion: He has, within these 30 years, planted about 260 acres of moor-ground with trees of different kinds; among which are many thousand larches, (a tree which thrives here beyond most others); inclosed and properly subdivided upwards of 300 acres  
of



of arable with good stone fences, and near 100 acres of pasture and meadow ground with hedge and ditch; erected 3 considerable new farms; let a number of convenient possessions to the manufacturers at very reasonable rents; doubled his rents upon the whole; and all without bringing any incumbrance upon his estate: He keeps a considerable farm in his own hand, and excites his tenants to the practice of good husbandry by his own example.

The fuel commonly used is turf, which is brought from the neighbouring hills. Coal is likewise transported from Dundee, and its use is greatly increasing. There are from 40 to 50 ploughs made after the best form.

In this parish there are still some cottagers on almost every farm. Farmers differ somewhat in their notions about employing them. It is generally allowed, that turning off cottagers has an immediate tendency to make a scarcity of hands, and of consequence to raise wages; and that where there are no people of this description, it occasions one considerable inconvenience in the time of harvest, as then the corns must be cut down chiefly by strangers, who, in tedious harvests and rainy weather, are a heavy burden on the farmer. Cottagers, after all, are generally in a poor and dependent situation, and perhaps little villages of manufacturers and tradesmen, immediately dependent on the land-owner, might answer the purposes of the farmer equally well, would be happier in themselves, and of greater advantage to their country.



## NUMBER XIII.

## PARISH OF DALLAS.

(COUNTY OF ELGIN.)

*By the Rev. Mr DAVID MILNE.**Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.*

THE name of this parish is derived from *Dale uis, i. e.* 'Watered Valley.' Dallas is in the presbytery of Forres, Synod of Moray, and county of Elgin. It is 12 miles from E. to W. and 9 from N. to S.; the form is oval. It is bounded by the parishes of Rothes and Birnie, on the S. E. and E.; of Elgin, on the N. E. and N.; of Bafford and Edenkillie, on the N. W. and W.; and of Knockando and Cromdale, on the S. W. and S. It is surrounded by hills, so as to form a valley or strath, almost equally divided from S. W. to E. by the small river Loffie, and intersected by several burns or rivulets, falling from the surrounding hills into Loffie. These burns partly bound the parish on the E. and N. and partly fall into Loffie within the bounds of the parish. The surrounding hills are covered with heath. The soil is black and mossy, excepting some fields or haughs on the Loffie banks.

Fine small trout are found in Loffie during the summer. In September and October, finnac or white trout are got, from 1 lb. to 3 lb. and a few small salmon.

The fields on Loffie banks are very subject to inundations. These do much damage, by breaking through and carrying away the best of the soil, notwithstanding the attention and exertions



exertions of the proprietor and his tenants. In summer also, and harvest, the corns and grafs within reach, are hurt by gravel and sand left upon them. The most remarkable inundations were in 1768, 1782, 1786, and 1789.

*Population.*—Shaw's History of Moray, published 1775, reckons the catechisable persons about 500. Dr Webster's statement, about 40 or 50 years ago, is 700. The present incumbent found the number of souls in July and August 1778, to be 917: Of whom 84 were under 6 years of age; 434 were males, 483 females. In 1788, the number amounted to 888, of whom 426 were males, 462 females.

#### T A B L E.

|                                                                                  |           |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Annual average of baptisms for 20 years, from the year 1770 to 1789, is          | - - - - - | 25 |
| Annual average of males baptized, about                                          | - - - - - | 13 |
| _____ of females                                                                 | - - - - - | 12 |
| Annual average of marriages from the end of the year 1774, till that of 1782, is | - - - - - | 8  |
| Annual average of deaths in the same period                                      | - - - - - | 15 |
| Annual average of males who died, about                                          | - - - - - | 8  |
| _____ females, nearly                                                            | - - - - - | 7  |

A man and woman, married 63 years, died here, the husband in the 95th year of his age, and the wife aged 93. Upwards of 20 young men, since the year 1778, particularly since the years 1783 and 1784, have emigrated to America and other foreign parts. A few have gone into England. Some families and single persons to the south of Scotland, and families also and unmarried persons into the neighbouring towns for employment. There are not above six or eight uninhabited houses at most, since the year 1778, and only a few erections have been made since that period; but a great many some years before.

*Produce,*



*Produce, &c.*—Potatoes are raised for family use, and a few garden and field turnip, principally for the same purpose. Natural oaks, birch and allan, apple, pear, plum, gean and cherry trees grow in several places, and some large inclosures of planted firs, of a pretty old standing, large enough for deals, farm-house couples, &c.

Barley, rye, and oats, are raised in the parish. Very little flax is cultivated, and a few fields are laid down in grass.

Ever since the present incumbent was settled, (1778,) unless in a few instances, the crops have been found insufficient to maintain the inhabitants or their cattle. Living, however, in the vicinity of Elgyn and Forres, they are employed in carrying peats twice a-week to market. This enables them to purchase some additional provisions for their families, and also corn, or corn and fodder in the season, when a deficiency at home requires a supply. Sowing does not become general till towards the middle of April. The climate admits not of it earlier: And the tenants, doubtless, owing to the poverty of the soil, think they have the cleaner crop the later sown. Of course, it is the middle or rather the end of November before all the corns are got in. From 1s. to 15s. may be the rent of each acre, from the least improved miur to the highest cultivated field. Every parish in the north of Scotland, doubtless, suffered by the failure of crop 1782; among which, it may be conceived, this parish had its melancholy share. A liberal share of bounty-meal was, at that period, allowed for the indigent in the parish. The first and second moieties, *gratis*, came most seasonably in summer 1783, or before the corns were ripe. The third and last moiety from Government, at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  d. a peck, came also seasonably a short time thereafter.



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The air is sharp and dry. The inhabitants are generally healthy. The small-pox is become less fatal by means of inoculation.

There are some chalybeate springs, but seldom resorted to.—The parish abounds in grey slate quarries. There is likewise a freestone quarry of excellent quality.

Towards the top of the east gable of the church, in a niche on the outside of the wall, stands a stone weather-beaten effigy, of about 4 feet high and 2 broad, of a faint, called Michael, to whom the church is said to be dedicated. In the middle of the church-yard, there still remains, entire, a neat erect well cut stone pillar, anciently the cross, to which are still brought the cattle and effects of some bankrupts. A large square stone, above ground, is the pedestal. The capital a *fleur de luce*, covered with moss, emblematical of a hoary head, and the whole height from the ground 12 feet.

Each tenant has a horse, for the most part, bought at market; many have 2, some 3 or 4. Several farmers have a flock of goats for the accommodation of tender people in summer. The parish is sufficiently stocked with black cattle of the common Scotch breed. There are a great many flocks of sheep of a very hardy kind and tolerable size, commonly called Badenoch, from whence every year a supply of lambs is brought. The lambs are bought for about 4s. 6d. or 5s. a-piece, and, when 4 or 5 years old, are sold from 8s. to 12s. each.

The lateness of the harvest, the scarcity of grain, and the overflowings of Loffie, may be reckoned among the greatest disadvantages of Dallas. Among its advantages may be ranked the salubrity of the air, inexhaustible mosses, the vicinity to Elgin and Forres for the sale of peats, and to markets for the sale of cattle: Good pasture for sheep, goats and black cattle: Timber from the woods for many imple-  
ments



ments of husbandry, and for building farm-houses: Fuel for their families, and minds strangers to luxury and extravagance. The cart-load of peats on the street brings only from 8 d. to 10 d. in summer, and from 10 d. to 14 d. in winter. They are of an excellent quality, but the load is small. These bring always ready money, and enable the people to buy the family necessaries when required, and to pay the landlord at the term.

The English language is spoken throughout the parish; yet, as is the case in many other places, the names of the farms appear to be of Celtic derivation.

The inhabitants are much inclined to industry and frugality. They are also disposed to acts of humanity. A good many weavers are constantly employed in making coarse cloth, commonly called *plaiden*, from the produce of their sheep, which, in the summer markets, is sold for from 9 d. to 1 s. the Scots ell. By that, and other sources of industry, they are enabled to support their families and pay their rents. There are some cart and cart-wheel wrights, with some carpenters for making flakes or paling for folding cattle in summer, and inclosing fields.

Their dress and manners are considerably improved within these few years. It is thought, and earnestly to be wished, that their condition may be meliorated. This, it is believed, might be done, by introducing and encouraging a stocking manufactory, or some such useful and accommodating employment, especially to occupy the young.

Last summer a petition was transmitted from the inhabitants of Kellas to the Honourable the Society at Edinburgh, requesting a Society School for that quarter. These families lie at a great distance from the parochial school. Accordingly, a school was appointed to be settled there, and



and a teacher entered at Martinmas last, who, ever since, has had a full attendance, and is assiduous.

There is great occasion for a bridge over the impetuous river Loffie. In particular, over that river, where a public road from Forres and the low country crosses, leading to the parishes of Knockando, Aberlour, Inveraven, &c. The roads are in bad repair. The statute-labour is but irregularly called for, and ill executed, as there are no gentlemen of property residing in the parish. Turnpikes would be altogether inefficient in Dallas.

NUM



## NUMBER XIV.

## PARISH OF KIRKHILL.

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER FRASER.**Name, Situation, and Soil.*

KIRKHILL consists of two united parishes, called Wardlaw and Farnua. *Wardlaw* is the name of the hill on which the church was built, and is a corruption of the Gaelic *Bar-tla*, that is “kindly summit.” *Farnua* or *Fearnaie*, as it is called in Gaelic, is probably derived from the word *fearn*, signifying “allar,” because the parish did and still does abound with allar trees. The name of the united parishes in Gaelic is *Cnoe-mboir*, or “Mary’s hill.” It is the same hill otherwise called Wardlaw, as this last term is expressive of its situation, so the former is of its dedication to the Virgin. In the neighbourhood it is called, by way of eminence, the Hill: Hence, the English translation of it is Kirkhill. This parish is about 8 measured miles long and from 1 to 3 miles broad. It is bounded on the E. and S. by the parish of Inverness, on the W. by the parish



parish of Kilterlity, on the N. by the parishes of Kilmorack, Urray and Kilternan, being separated from the three last mentioned, by the river Beuly and the Moray frith. It is situated within the county of Inverness, in the presbytery of Inverness and Synod of Moray. For 4 miles it is a narrow strip, on the declivity of a hill, inclining to the Moray frith, with a N. W. aspect. Beyond these 4 miles the frith contracts and the country enlarges; but instead of forming a plain, a ridge of rising ground projects into the plain, which divides it into two valleys; the summit of this ridge is Wardlaw or Mary's hill. The soil is various. In the two valleys and along the frith, that part of the land which connects the two valleys, the soil is a strong rich clay, which by proper culture might be made very fruitful; for such parts of it, as have been well cultivated, produce equal, perhaps, to any soil in Scotland; but when ill managed, the crop is precarious. If the beginning of the season is very dry, the clay binds so fast as to stint the growth of the corn; if, on the other hand, the season is wet, the coldness of the clay chills the seed. On the rising ground next the plain, the soil is a rich loam, which commonly yields a good and sure crop. Higher still, the soil is light on a gravelly bottom, but sharp, and in good seasons produce a tolerable crop.

*Climate and Mineral Spring.*—The climate, when compared with many places in the same country, is mild and temperate; much less rain falls in this parish, than in the height of the neighbouring parish of Kilterlity. The most prevalent diseases among the poor, are such as proceed from cold, as coughs, dysenteries, and asthmatic complaints. In the spring of 1783, a pleuritic fever raged, which cut off many. It was generally attributed to cold, contracted by



by cutting down the preceding crop so late in the season. There is a chalybeate spring in this parish at Achnagairn. It was once much frequented, and thought to be very salutary for complaints of the stomach: But it has been quite neglected for some time past. The water, when taken up at the fountain is quite clear, nor will its colour alter by lying; but if a little rum or tea is poured into it, in a few minutes it turns black as ink. By this experiment, the strength of the mineral is discovered, for the stronger the mineral is, the blacker will the colour be.

*Hills, Rivers, &c.*—The hills that run along the S. E. of the parish, are pretty high, and covered with heath. The pasture they afford is miserably scanty, the surface being constantly carried off for fuel. There are some natural woods of birch and alder, and some hundreds of acres of planted fir. Indeed, all the various trees planted for use or ornament in Great Britain, have been successfully introduced by some of the proprietors. The river Beuly runs along the N. W. boundary of the parish, for about 2 or 3 miles. It is navigable at high water, by ships of about 50 tons burden, so far as the village of Beuly, in the parish of Kilmorack. It produces abundance of excellent salmon, and several kinds of trouts. The salmon fetch on the spot 3d. the pound. Some years ago they sold for 1d. They are in season from February till the end of August. During the spring they are kitted and sent to the London market. After summer commences, they are salted and sent to foreign places. A very small proportion is sold in the country. Herrings are taken in the frith, within this parish, in small quantities by set nets: Their season is from September to February: If any remain after that time, they are poor and insipid. If the people who fish them take more than serves



their own families, they sell them in the parish, or at Inverness, when plenty, at the rate of twenty score for 6 d.

*Birds, Beasts, &c.*—The birds that commonly frequent the shores of this parish are of the web-footed kind. The wild-goose, cormorant, scale-drake, duck, teal, widgeon, sea-magpie, and swan, are rare. The gulls here are of three different species. There are the crane, curlew, plover, half plover, sandy lark, page plover; of all which only the duck, scale drake, widgeon and plover, nestle in the parish. Land birds, larger than a common sparrow, are, the lark, bountain, thrush, fieldfare, starling, blackbird, snipe, quail, land-rail, partridge, moorfowl, black game. Rooks and wood-pigeons are so numerous as to be a serious evil to the farmer; crows and magpies are exceedingly numerous likewise. Migratory birds are the lapwing or green plover, cuckoo, blue and grey swallow, stone-chatter, and night-hawk. The lapwing appears in March, the cuckoo in April, swallows and stone-chatters in April or May, the night-hawk in May or June: He makes a chattering noise the whole night, and lives upon the butterflies or moths that fly about during the night. All these disappear in October. The woodcock appears the end of October or beginning of November, and disappears in February. The snow-birds appear in flocks in November or December, as storm sets in, and disappear in February, as the weather turns mild. The blackbird was once migratory, but for 10 years past he remains with us throughout the year. Whether this indicates that our climate is grown colder than it was formerly, I will not pretend to say. The number of sheep may be about a 1000; of which about 200 are of the Bakewell breed, the rest of the old Scots sheep, small sized, with short wool, unequal as to its quality, some of it being fine, and some of it coarse. The black cattle may be about 800. They  
are



are of various kinds; but, in general, they are larger than the old highland breed, that are fit to lie out during the winter. The number of horses may be about 400, and are of various sizes.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster about 40 or 50 years ago, was 1360. In the year 1673, the examinable persons in the parish of Wardlaw, were reckoned by the then incumbent about six or seven hundred. If Farnua bore the same proportion to Wardlaw then as now, both parishes might contain 850. About 30 years ago, by a list of the late incumbent, the examinable persons in the united parish were about 950. Every year since 1773, a new list was made by the present incumbent; the examinable persons were never much above 1000, nor below 950, till 4 years ago, when their number increased. By an exact survey made in the close of the year 1789, the examinable persons were 1190, of whom there were 489 males, 701 females, the proportion of males to females being nearly as 5 to 7. Under 9 years of age, not entered on the list, were 380, making for the number of souls 1571. The reasons for the increase of examinable persons, I take to be these: First, about 4 years ago, several small farms were thrown into a few large ones; the greater part of those farmers who were dispossessed, remained in the parish as cottagers, while other persons were brought in to manage the large farms. Again, several gentlemen in the parish have a taste for improvements, as planting, ditching, by which they give constant employment to a number of labourers, so that persons of that description crowd in from other places. The average of births for the last 7 years is nearly 40, of which there are 20 males and 20 females. The males and females are almost equally balanced. The whole number of births for the  
last



last 7 years stood thus: Males 138, females 139. By the list of examinable persons, the proportion of males to females was as 5 to 7. The decrease of adult males is owing to their leaving the parish. Numbers of young men go to the south of Scotland, as handicraftsmen, or labourers: Several enlist in the army, and some go to the West Indies, while the women remain. The average of deaths may be about 20; but this cannot be so exactly ascertained, as several from this parish are buried at Inverness or Kilterlity, and some from both these parishes are buried here. By the register, 30 died in 1783, but then a pleuritic fever cut off a third more than commonly die. In 1790, 30 persons likewise died; but the small-pox, measles, and whooping-cough raged at the same time. In several of the intermediate years, not above 10 died. The average of marriages may be about 6.

*Proprietors, Tenants, and Rent.*—There are 6 proprietors and one feuer, of whom 5 have their occasional or constant residence in the parish. There are about 60 tenants, of whom 8 pay from L. 30 to L. 60 Sterling rent; the rest may pay from L. 10 to L. 15 Sterling. Besides these there are cottagers, who pay for small crofts from 5 s. to L. 5. All these cottagers are either handicraftsmen or labourers: Frequently one man has three occupations; he manages his croft, works as a labourer in summer, or while the weather is good, and as a weaver, tailor, shoemaker or carpenter in winter, or when the weather is bad. There may be of this description, labourers without a handicraft, 34; handicraftsmen, 77; male servants, 134; female servants, 104; household servants are included. About 10 years ago cottagers were employed in agriculture, but now hired servants. Several houses have been built within that period,



riod, perhaps 50. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2068, 10s. Scots. The real rent may be about L. 2000 Sterling. The rent of land varies. Such farms as have been given in lease about 30 years ago, may pay from 7s. to 10s. for the acre of arable ground. Farms that have been lately let, pay from 15s. to 20s. the acre.

*Crops.*—The principal crops in the parish are barley and oats; pease is not so common. Lint is sown in small quantities for family use. The common tenants and cottagers raise a great many potatoes in proportion to their acres, depending upon them chiefly for subsistence. The proprietors and gentlemen tenants follow the Norfolk method of husbandry. They sow wheat, turnip, and grass-seeds. They use the English plough, drawn by two horses, without a driver. The farms in the hand of the proprietors and better tenants, are inclosed; the rest of the parish is open. Wheat is sown from the middle of October to the middle of November; oats and pease in the end of March and beginning of April; barley from the end of April to the beginning of June; lint the beginning of May; turnip from the middle of June to the middle of July. The harvest is seldom begun before September; and if the crop is got in about the middle of October, they reckon it in good time. A greater quantity of every species of grain than is necessary for the maintenance of the inhabitants is raised; at the same time, victual gives a high price, and meal is sometimes scarce, because the barley is wholly consumed by the distilleries.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church was first built on Wardlaw or Mary's hill in the year 1210. The patron is Fraser of Lovat. The living consists of 5 chalders of victual, half barley, half oatmeal, and L. 50 Sterling of money



money, with 50 merks Scots for communion-elements. The glebe consists of 7 Scots acres. The manse was built in 1775. The church was begun building in 1790. It is not yet finished. It has been removed about two gunshots from Mary's hill. There are no dissenters of any kind within the bounds of this parish, except six Catholics. There are two schools in this parish; one of them is a parochial school, the other is planted by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The emoluments of the parochial school are 200 merks Scots of salary; one shilling the quarter for every scholar taught to read; one shilling and sixpence the quarter from every scholar taught writing, arithmetic, and Latin. The Society schoolmaster has a salary of L. 12. the children of the poor are taught by him *gratis*. At each of these schools there are from 60 to 80 children. The number of poor on the parish roll is 50. The fund to provide for them is not above L. 10, arising from the weekly collections, the hire of a mortcloth, and the interest of L. 50 due the session by bond. The greater number of those on the roll can provide for themselves in part, by their labour. Few if any on the poors roll beg from door to door, yet the parish is infested with beggars from other places.

*Prices and Wages.*—The price of grain and provisions has advanced considerably of late years. Ten shillings the boll was reckoned the average price, 40 years ago, for barley and pease, for 5 firlots of oats and 9 stones of oatmeal. For the last 7 years, at an average, barley has sold at 18 s.; pease, oats, and meal at 16 s. Other provisions as under,

|                             | 40 years ago. |    | At present. |    |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----|-------------|----|
|                             | s.            | d. | s.          | d. |
| Beef the lb. at an average, | 0             | 1  | 0           | 3  |
| Veal,                       | 0             | 1½ | 0           | 4  |



|                            | 40 years ago |    | At present. |      |
|----------------------------|--------------|----|-------------|------|
|                            | s.           | d. | s.          | d.   |
| Mutton, - - - -            | 0            | 1  | -           | 0 3  |
| Pork, - - - -              | 0            | 1½ | -           | 0 3  |
| A lamb fed, - - -          | 3            | 0  | -           | 6 0  |
| A goose, - - - -           | 1            | 0  | -           | 2 0  |
| A duck, - - - -            | 0            | 4  | -           | 0 8  |
| A hen, - - - -             | 0            | 3  | -           | 0 6  |
| A chicken for the brander, | 0            | 1  | -           | 0 4  |
| Butter the stone 21 lb.    | 5            | 0  | -           | 12 0 |
| Cheese the lb.             | 2            | 6  | -           | 5 0  |

Farm servants hired by the year, receive from L. 4 to L. 5, and 6 bolls meal, unless they board in the house; second class of men servants receive from L. 3 to L. 4 yearly, and 6 bolls meal. Boys receive from 30 s. to L. 2, and 4 bolls meal for victuals; but generally they have their meat with the household servants. Female servants for the farm, from L. 1 to L. 2. Labourers hired by the day get 8 d.; by the piece, they commonly make from 10 d. to 1 s. 6 d. From the frugal manner in which they live, a labourer, if sober and industrious, may support himself, his wife and 3 or 4 children.

*Manners and Morals.*—The people of this parish, in general, are sober and industrious, free from gross crimes, tractable and submissive. They, as well as the people of the neighbouring parishes, have made a greater progress in civilization within the last 50 years, than for several centuries before. This is owing, first, to the decline of the feudal system. Before the year 1745, that system had considerable influence. Every chief considered himself as an independent prince, who might commit depredations on his neighbours territories, as avarice or animosity dictated. The



The clans, like the subjects of independent states, living in the close neighbourhood of each other, were animated by constant jealousy and mutual hatred. They neglected industry, because they held the fruits of their labour by a precarious tenure. They made little account of good morals, since it could not defend them from their lawless neighbours, nor at all times secure the favour of their chief. But when the feudal system received an irrecoverable blow, by quelling the rebellion, and by the jurisdiction act, the people began to feel the force of the laws of their country, in punishing the guilty and defending the innocent. They were excited to industry, by the prospect of enjoying what they acquired. They were taught morality, by the most obvious (though not the most important) argument, that it afforded the best security to their persons and property. Another cause of this progress is the influence of religion. No doubt the ordinances of religion were dispensed previous to the year 1745; but it is only since that period the people have begun to respect them. Before that æra, they considered themselves as a race of warriors, and that religion was beneath their notice, or inconsistent with military prowess; sentiments carefully inculcated by those who had occasion for their services. Besides, religion has been considerably aided by literature since the æra mentioned. The lower class have been more generally taught to read. In learning to read, the principles of Christianity have been inculcated. Much praise in this respect is, in a special manner, due to the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge.

*Antiquities and Language.*—There are remains of two Druidical temples, but they are much defaced. In the moor between Achnagairn and the ferry of Beuly, through which the public road goes to the northern counties, are many  
small



small tumuli of earth mixed with stones. The tradition is, that some of the neighbouring clans having made a sudden irruption into the country, in the spring, when the people were employed at their ploughs; these having no time to provide themselves with arms, unloosed the oxen, took the yokes in their hands, and with this armour fell upon the enemy with determined fury, so that numbers were killed on both sides. The slain were buried in the field, and the tumuli mentioned were raised over their graves. The moor from this event has been called *Blar-na-cui-flich*, that is, "the battle of the wet yoke." The language chiefly spoken by the common people is Gaelic; although a great many of them, from their being taught to read English at school, can transact ordinary business in that tongue. All the names of places are obviously derived from the Gaelic.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—By the spirited exertions of individuals, and the generous relief afforded by government, oatmeal, which sold at Inverness and in this parish the beginning of summer 1783, at the enormous price of 30s. the boll, was reduced before the end of summer, below 14s. besides supplying the poor *gratis*. How different was the situation of this country during the scarcity in King William's reign! The people were left to their own exertions; when one crop failed, they had no resource for seed, but to sow the damaged corn of their own growth. This occasioned the failure of a second and a third crop. I am informed by a man in this parish, that his father told him, that during the scarcity mentioned, four families inhabiting a place called Clunes, in Kiltarlity parish, on the borders of this parish, subsisted for two years on the herbs they could collect in summer, and gathered the seed of the wild mustard, with which their fields abounded, and ground it into meal,



meal, so as to afford them a scanty subsistence in winter. But the third crop failing, they could subsist no longer : Accordingly, they deserted their habitations in one body, and came down to the plain below, where they set up a lamentable howling; and having wept till they had no further power, they dispersed themselves to beg or serve, as they should find a reception, the wife separating from the husband, the mother from the children.

A disadvantage much felt in this parish, is the scarcity of fuel. The common tenants and cottagers depend chiefly on turf, the peat mosses being almost exhausted. The proprietors and better tenants burn coals from Sunderland or Newcastle; but the high price, owing to the duty on this article, puts them beyond the reach of the poor. Many disadvantages arise from the late distillery-law. The consumption of barley makes the price of grain very high for the poor, confining the sale of the spirits distilled to a particular district, while every parish within that district has the same privilege of distilling, is in fact confining what is distilled within the parish to the consumption of that parish; if such a limitation destroys the benefit of any manufacture in a great measure, much more so of this. The abundance of spirits without a market has lowered the price. So that they sell sometimes at 9 s. the Scots gallon; an English pint may be had at 4 d. in the alehouse. This is too strong a temptation for persons having the smallest inclination to drink. Hence, too, alehouses or dram-houses, as they ought be called, are multiplied; and each of these may be considered as seminaries of vice and idleness. About two years ago, there were 8 alehouses within this parish; but the Justices of the Peace, conscious of their hurtful tendency, shut them all up, except two, that are at convenient distances upon the public road.

Digging



Digging pits for gravel to mix with dung is an universal but pernicious practice in this parish. It not only deforms the country, and destroys the natural pasture, but renders the land for ever incapable of improvement, where pitted, with little or no benefit to the land on which the gravel is laid. Cutting feal and divot is another hurtful practice, though not peculiar to this parish, but it would be extremely oppressive in proprietors to prohibit it altogether, without giving the poor a substitute for building and thatching their houses.

NUM.



## NUMBER XV.

## PARISH OF INVERARITY.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN WEBSTER.**Situation and Extent.*

**I**NVERARITY is in the presbytery of Forfar, and Synod of Angus and Mearns. It is bounded by the parish of Kinnettles on the W.; Murrays on the S.; Carmyllie on the E.; and by Forfar on the N. The parish is about 3 miles square.

*Agriculture, Rent, Wages, &c.*—Here and in the neighbourhood, there is a growing spirit for agriculture. Marl is the chief manure. It is brought from the distance of 5 miles; and from 40 to 50 bolls are put upon an acre. Its effects are most sensible and beneficial upon light dry land; and if laid on in a greater quantity, it will operate powerfully, even on a soil that has a tendency to be moist. For the first season it does little good; but afterwards its effects will continue for 6 or 7 years. At the end of that time, the marling operation may be renewed, but it is pretended, the quantity of marl ought to be diminished in proportion to the number of times that the field has been marled. The most



most approved method, is to mix it with earth and dung, about 1 part marl, 1 earth, and 2 dung. This compost, by spreading it equally, prevents dangerous effects; and also causes it to *work* sooner than when marl is laid on by itself. What in some measure may have retarded the progress of agriculture here, is the old system of bondage and cottagers, which still prevails. This practice has continued, on account of very long leases having been formerly given. Of cottagers, there are to the number of 60 families, and the bondage in which they are held by the great farmer, has evidently an effect in rendering them less industrious; not having the command of their own time, they are brought not to know its value, and from being idlers when paying bondage abroad, they learn to be lazy at home; besides, as they hold their cottages from year to year, every little improvement they should make, would render them only more dependent on their master. As the old leases of the great farms expire, these cottagers are getting leases from the proprietor. From this, and the abolishing of personal services, it is not doubted but their situation will be improved, and the most powerful motive be given to excite their industry.

There are but few inclosures in this parish in proportion to the extent of arable ground. Corn therefore is principally cultivated. Where a field has been under cultivation and inclosed, it may let from 18 s. to 21 s. the acre; where it is otherwise, it will not give above 15 s. The valued rent is L. 2987 : 6 : 8 Scots; the real rent about L. 2000 Sterling.

Labourers get a shilling a-day without their victuals; farm servants have from L. 8 to L. 10 the year, and maid-servants from L. 3 to L. 4; and the wages of all of them are still gradually rising, which shews that both manufactures and agriculture are in a thriving condition.

*Plantations.*



*Plantations.*—The want of inclosures has had the same effect here, as in other places, of retarding the plantation of trees: A circumstance to be regretted, as woods and hedges add to the beauty, and improve the climate of a country. It gives pleasure to mention, that the principal proprietor is busy in planting the whole of his waste lands, which must eventually turn to good account. An acre of land will contain 1500 trees at 6 feet distance. In 20 years, each of these may sell for 2 d.; and this amounting to L. 12. 10 s. yields a rent of 10 s. yearly. In planting waste lands, especially on the declivity of a hill, it would be a good practice to lay two furrows together with the plough; which would give the trees planted between them a greater depth of soil; and what is of still greater advantage, the ground would be kept dry, and the trees, on that account, thrive much better.

*Birds of Passage, &c.*—Dotterels, rails and woodcocks, visit this parish. At their first appearance dotterels are very tame; but after having been shot at they become remarkably wild. They have become much rarer, since the country was improved. Woodcocks come here in the end of September, and remain till April; one of them built a nest in this neighbourhood; but the nest and eggs were destroyed. We have a few grouse; and which are considerably larger in size than upon the Grampians.

*Population.*



*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster, about 40 or 50 years ago, was 996. According to the parish register, there were at an average—

| <i>A. D.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Baptisms.</i> | <i>Burials.</i> | <i>Souls.</i> |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1716         | 14                | 37               |                 | 962           |
| 1720         | 9                 | 38               |                 | 988           |
| 1730         | 18                | 41               | 23              | 947           |
| 1740         | 9                 | 33               | 26              | 897           |
| 1750         | 13                | 31               | 25              | 853           |
| 1760         | 11                | 37               | 25              | 931           |
| 1770         | 9                 | 34               | 23              | 852           |
| 1780         | 8                 |                  |                 | 860           |
| 1789         | 16                |                  |                 | 900           |

There are 169 families,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to each family. Those of 10 years and under, are to those above that age as 2 to 9. There are 1 Roman Catholic; 7 Episcopalians; 33 Seceders. The population from 1716 to 1770 is calculated from baptisms, and burials being multiplied by 26 and 36, and the half of the whole product being taken for the number of souls required, that of 1780 and 1789 is ascertained by actual enumeration. It should thus appear, that the population of the parish during the present century has been very much the same: Many causes may have contributed to this; the number of large farms, of small possessions, and of cottages continued nearly equal; and, though our increased wealth should have produced more children, yet having no trading village to keep them at home, those who were not needed for the usual domestic purposes, may have gone in search of employment to the many manufacturing towns, with which we are surrounded. From the cottagers being in more easy circumstances than formerly, it is probable there may now be a greater proportion of souls under 12 years



years of age; but the higher wages of labouring servants having led the farmer to do more work with fewer hands, the one circumstance may counterbalance the other, and therefore may have kept the population of the parish almost stationary.

*Poor, &c.*—Families who occasionally need relief from the poors fund, have been gradually diminishing, and beggars have become exceedingly less numerous; at present we have not one belonging to the parish; but in 1741 the kirk-session gave 32 of them a badge and a licence to beg. Later than that period the heritors were obliged to assess themselves for supporting the poor; now our weekly collections are more than adequate for that purpose. At the interval of every 20 years there was, at an average, collected each Sunday,—

| <i>A. D.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1710         | 0         | 4         |
| 1730         | 1         | 3         |
| 1750         | 2         | 7         |
| 1770         | 5         | 3         |
| 1790         | 7         | 0         |

Were we therefore to judge of the wealth of the parish by this standard, we would conclude, that it had increased in the proportion of 1 to 21: This estimate would, however, be too high; because as there was formerly a much greater number of parochial beggars, those who had to give more charity in private, might give less in public: Yet allowing for this, and comparing what was given at different periods for the relief of families, who may be supposed to have been in similar circumstances, the wealth of the parish must be 8 or 10 times greater than it was in the beginning of the present century. Our former poverty, and indeed the poverty of the country in general, is strongly



ly marked by the description given of those who solicited charity as beggars:—Stranger gentlemen,—poor gentlemen,—distressed gentlemen,—are the appellations very frequently given them; and what must have been the poverty! what the spirit of the times! when, as the record informs us, a gentleman accepted a fourpence, and a young gentleman, recommended by a nobleman, was relieved by a sixpence!

*Antiquities.*—The only antiquity worth mentioning is a Roman camp called Taerfauds, in the moor of Lower. It is nearly a rectangular parallelogram, about 300 by 700 yards. There is another camp, Battledykes, about 8 miles to the north of this, in the parish of Oathlaw, and, from the traces of a *via militaris* extending between them, it is probable that these two encampments were connected together. Neither history nor tradition give any distinct account of either of them. Some antiquaries suppose them to have been built by Agricola in his 6th campaign, when he obtained his victory over the Caledonians, under Galgacus their chief.

*Character of the People.*—They are, in general, industrious and sober; pleased with their situation, but not without ambition to improve it; remarkable for their attendance at church; and improved both in their moral and religious character.



## NUMBER XVI.

## PARISH OF DUIRINISH,

(ISLE OF SKY, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM BETHUNE.**Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE name of this parish seems to be of foreign origin, as are almost all the names of farms, places and parishes in the western islands. The places whose names terminate in Nefs, or Nish; as Hunish, Troternish, Vater-nish, &c. signify promontories, or head-lands, projecting into the sea; yet these names have no affinity to the Gaelic language, in sound or meaning; nor any relation, as far as can be known, to the local situation or appearance of the places, and may be words of the Pictish, or more probably of the Danish language, as would appear from a well known cape in Norway being called the *Nese*. Duirinish is situated in the county of Inverness, in the presbytery of Sky, and Synod of Glenelg. Its extent from N. to S. W. namely, from the point of Vaternish to the point of Idrigil, is 17 computed miles. Its breadth from Lindale to the western shore, 13 miles. It is bounded on the E. by the parish of Snisford, on the S. E. by the parish of Bracadale, on the N. W. and S. W. by the sea or Channel, which separates this country from the Long Island,



Island, and which is about 18 miles broad. The ground about the lochs or branches of the sea, which run far into the country, descends in some places with a quick, and in other places with an easy slope towards the sea. The promontories or head-lands are rocks of immense height; the moors in most places are deep and wet. The soil in some parts is a light black loam, in some places of a reddish gravelly appearance; and though mostly thin and stony, it is on the whole fertile and productive. The air is very moist and foggy; the west and southwest winds bring floods of rain, owing probably to the vicinity of the Atlantic Ocean. The most common distempers are rheumatisms, sciaticks, colds, nervous fevers and dysenteries, owing, it is presumed, to the wet and rainy climate. The extent of the sea-coast of this parish would measure upwards of 60 miles; the shore is in general stony, and in many parts very high and rocky.

*Fish, Kelp, Harbours, &c.*—The fish which frequent the coast are herrings, ling, cod, skate, mackerel, haddocks, flounders, fye and cuddies. Herrings and ling are exported; and when sold in the country, a barrel of salt herrings brings about 16s. and ling L. 13 the ton. The parish exports about 20 tons of ling yearly at an average. There are likewise some seals, otters; and whales of a large size are often seen in the Channel, between this and the Long Island. Every species of sea-weed is reckoned most excellent manure, though it is thought to burn and waste the soil, when it is not mixed with earth, and it is reckoned more profitable to convert it into kelp, than into manure. There are some kelp-shores, and the parish makes about an hundred tons annually. The tide of flood in this channel runs north and by east, and off the heads flows with great rapidity, perhaps at the rate of 5 miles an hour in spring tides.



tides. One light-house has been erected lately in the island of Scalpa in Harris, which is reckoned of great utility to the numerous shipping that frequent this channel, in their voyages to and from the Baltic. The harbours of the parish are Loch Arniford, Loch Bay, Pottech, Dunvigan Loch, and Loch Harlosh. As the coast is very bold and high, with a great depth of water, it seldom happens, that any vessel is wrecked upon it. About 30 years ago, a vessel belonging to Aberdeen, laden with staves, was cast away upon the coast of Ramsaig, in this parish, and two of the hands were drowned. The surviving part of the crew were treated by the people with the greatest humanity, and the cargo was preserved with the utmost care, for the benefit of the underwriters. This forbearance, however, may be rather ascribed to the attention and authority of the gentlemen, than to the humanity of the common people.

*Hills.*—The most remarkable mountains in the parish, are the two Hallivails, situated within a mile of each other, of an equal height, being about 3 quarters of a mile high, the top of each is a flat or a table land, and, like twins, they exactly resemble each other; so that they are such sure land-marks, as no seaman can mistake. The hills are all covered with heath, with a few green spots here and there.

*Population.*—The population of this parish, and of the whole island, is increasing, and has been increasing for at least 80 years back. The old people affirm, that they remember lands which lay waste in several districts, not only of this parish, but in several parts of the island, for want of inhabitants to occupy them. Of late, the inhabitants have multiplied so much, that from August 1771, to October 1790, eight large transports have sailed from this island with emigrants, to seek settlements in America; the last



last of these transports sailed on the 6th of this month (October 1790) from Loch Bracadale. These 8 ships have, at a very moderate computation, carried away from this island 2400 souls, and L. 24,000 Sterling, ship-freights included. From the year 1772 to 1775, 204 males, and 207 females, emigrated from this parish to America, exclusive of those who have gone in the two last ships; yet the population appears to be as great as in 1772. This increase of population may be attributed to a more judicious and rational treatment of children and women in child-bed, than was formerly observed; and above all, to the inoculation of the small-pox, which has been universally practised in this island for 30 years past, and has been the means of preserving many lives. The number of souls in this parish at present, amounts to fully 3000. The return to Dr Webster, about 40 years ago, was only 2568. Though there are no extraordinary instances of longevity, yet severals in this parish arrive at a good old age. There are at present two men, one of them 88, the other 95, and two women, one of them 93, and the other 97 years. In every district of the parish, there are some weavers, male and female, a few tailors, a blacksmith in every barony, some boat-builders and house-carpenters. Every farm keeps boats, and the people go a-fishing for their own use, or when they see an appearance of herrings. There are very few bred seamen, but all expert rowers, good hardy watermen, and skilled in making a boat with sails. There are 4 students from this parish who attend the Universities of Aberdeen. There are 7 established clergymen in this island, viz. 5 on Lord Macdonald's estates, and 2 on Colonel Macleod's. All the inhabitants of Sky are Protestants, of the established Church of Scotland, a very few excepted, who are of the Church of England; yet these persons are endued with such liberality of sentiments, and so free from bigotry, that they frequent



frequent the established Church, and communicate at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Marriages here produce, in general, from 5 to 12 children, and upwards. The cottages are full of inhabitants.

*Productions, &c.*—The utmost that the whole island can do in the very best seasons, is to serve the inhabitants with meal. In unfavourable seasons they buy large quantities of imported meal. Oats and potatoes are planted in March and April, barley is sown in the beginning of May, and reaped in August. In wet seasons the oats are not cut down till October. The rent of the parish may be about L. 1700 yearly.

*Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The church was lately repaired. The stipend is L. 50, with L. 10 yearly compensation for manse and glebe. There is no manse in this parish, nor were there ever any manses in Sky, till of late two manses have been built. As there are no markets for provisions in the island, were the ministers confined to a manse and glebe, they could not procure the necessaries of life; therefore they thought it more eligible to possess farms, and to accommodate themselves as to houses in the best manner they could. The Laird of Macleod is patron of the parish.—The number of poor on the list, who are relieved in times of scarcity, is 63. Many of these do not go about for alms, but reside mostly in the house of some relation. There are no other funds for the support of the poor, but the Sunday collections, and the fines of delinquents, so that they are chiefly supported by the charity of the parishioners. In a year of scarcity, however, the session make a shift to buy 20 bolls of meal for their relief. In summer 1773, Government generously sent a cargo of meal to the Western Islands, of which this parish got 44 bolls



bolts and 3 firlots, which was a most seasonable relief to the poorer sort of people.

*Price of Provisions and Labour, &c.*—As there are no flesh-markets, if a person is disposed to eat beef, he must buy a whole cow; if he would wish to have mutton, he must buy a sheep. A cow costs from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3, 10s. a sheep 6s. Butter, when it can be procured, from 10s. to 12s. cheese 4s. the stone weight. Domestic men-servants yearly wages are from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3, exclusive of 4 pair of shoes to each. A grieve (or overseer) has from L. 4 to L. 7, besides his shoes. Women-servants have from 8s. to 20s. besides 3 pair of shoes. When a man-servant marries, and engages in service for a year, he has for wages as much ground as he can labour, grazes for 2 milk-cows, a dozen of sheep and 2 horses, and 2 days in the week to do his own work, besides his victuals every day he works to his master. Every married labourer in this country has a small portion of land, he raises a little flax, and has a few sheep, so that his wife furnishes him with his whole wearing apparel. Were he to buy yearly, as he would require, a bonnet at 1s. 6d.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  yards of coarse cloth for a great coat, at 2s. 6d. the yard, 5 yards of the same for a jacket, waist-coat and 2 pair of breeches, 4 pair of shoes at 2s. 6d. each, 3 pair of hose, and so in proportion for his wife and children; also 12 bolts of meal for himself, wife and children, at 17s. the boll,  $\frac{1}{2}$  barrel of salt, at 5s.  $\frac{1}{2}$  stone of iron at 2s. together with some other unavoidable little charges, it would be found that the yearly expence of a labourer and his family in the Isle of Sky, could not be much less than L. 20 Sterling.

*Antiquities.*—There are the remains of 2 Roman Catholic chapels, one in Trumpar in Vaternish, and another in Glendale.



dale. There are also the ruins of several towers, reported by tradition to have been built by the Danes. These towers seem not to have ever exceeded 20 feet in height. They are circular in their form, and were built in a very substantial manner, with large stones, without any cement. They had an inner wall, very neatly built, with an empty space of about 5 feet in breadth, between the two walls, with openings through the inner wall, into the void space or interval between the two walls. They do not appear to have been ever roofed; but the two walls were joined to each other at the top, by long flag-stones laid across between the two walls, and covered with earth. The void spaces between the walls, probably were intended for places of shelter and repose, and for preserving arms and provisions from the weather; and as every one of these towers is built in sight of one or more of the same, it is natural to think that they were intended for places to make signals from by smoke and fire, upon an alarm, or the sight of an enemy, and likewise for defence; for as they are all built upon eminences, a few men could defend one of them against a thousand, before the invention of cannon and gunpowder. There are two tombs in the parish. In one of them, about 70 years since, an urn was found, containing some ashes.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—As to the size of the people, they are of a low stature, the men in general from 5 feet 4 inches, to 5 feet 8. There are very few men who are 6 feet high; they are however active and lively. The common people of Sky are blessed with excellent parts; a liberal share of strong natural sense, and great acuteness of understanding. They are peaceable and gentle in their dispositions, and are very industrious when they work for themselves; but when they work for hire or wages, they are



are inclined to be lazy and indifferent; they are rather too fond of changes and emigrations; and though they are brave and very loyal, they are averse to the naval and military services, and are extremely disgusted with the idea of being pressed.—The language commonly spoken is Gaelic.—There are in this parish, 2 vessels with decks, one of 80 tons, the other of 30 tons burden.—Some indications of coal have lately been discovered.—In August 1785, two families were banished from this country for cow-stealing.



## NUMBER XVII.

## PARISH OF KIRKINNER,

## (COUNTY OF WIGTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN GRAHAM.*

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*Situation, Surface, Soil, Air, &c.*

A Neighbouring parish, Kircowan, is said anciently to have made one parish with Kirkinner; and that of Longcastle, now forming the S. W. corner of this parish, has, in later times, been united to it. Kirkinner, from S. E. to N. W. is about 9 Scotch miles, and about 8 from N. E. to S. W.; from E. to W. about 6 miles; and from N. to S. not quite 4. On the N. and N. W. it is bounded by Wigton, Penningham, and Kircowan; by Mochrum, on the W.; by Glasserton, on the S. W.; and by Sorbie, on the S.; on the E. and N. E. by the Frith of Cree, between this parish and Kirkmabreck, in the stewartry of Galloway. The appearance of the country is hilly, but no where mountainous. Its soil is generally thin and light, the course land of Baldern excepted, which is a deep and rich clay, lying along the frith of Cree, which, so far as this parish goes, has a very flat clay or sleetchy shore, with the hills or rising grounds, generally at the distance of a mile, or a little more from the tide. This carse ground excepted, and about half a mile up from it, the parish does not



not appear to have been naturally very fertile. But, by the benefit of sea-shells, lime, and marl, the soil has been much improved, and still goes on improving. In the carse of Baldern, lies an abundant treasure of sea-shells, which the proprietor however reserves for the use of his own estate, in this and two neighbouring parishes. For the rest of the parish, they are brought from the other side of the Frith, and landed at Wigton, for 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d. the ton. But where the land-carriage comes to exceed 3, or at utmost 4 miles, our farmers prefer lime imported in shells, from Whitehaven, or its neighbourhood. In some places marl has been found, but it begins to be exhausted. Our marl is of the shell kind, found in bogs or moss, but never, I think, in mosses of great extent. It seems to be agreed that the substance of the marl, is the shells of the fresh water wilk. I have seen a thin stratum of it, begin to form at the bottom of ponds of standing water. Our hills, in their natural state, were covered with furze and broom; but, from the application of the above manures, the furze and broom begin to disappear; though both are still troublesome to the farmer. The air is rather dry than moist, compared with that of the more northerly counties of the west of Scotland, and deserves the character of healthy. I have not observed any prevalent distempers. There is only one mineral spring, and I am well assured it has been of use to remove complaints of the stomach, and frequently proved a cure for the ague. We have many springs of soft and light water, which I believe contribute much to the health of the inhabitants.

The river of Bladnoch is the boundary between this parish and Wigton, and between this parish and Penningham. It produces very good salmon, but not in great quantities, from 3 d. to 4 d. the pound, and none is exported. The tide goes up this river but a little way above the



the town of Wigton. Between this parish Sorbie and Glasserton, on the S. W. lies the lake or loch of Dowalton, about 2 miles long, by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  broad, containing pike and herring; and a little island on the Kirkinner side of it, about 30 acres arable. I wish I could see it stocked with Shetland sheep. The extent of waste ground along the frith of Cree, is about 3 miles. A few small cod and haddocks, skate and soals, are taken there, and sold in the market of Wigton, from 1 d. to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. a pound. None exported. The hills were formerly covered with furze or broom, now with good crops or pasture. Our most valuable stone is gray whinstone, used in building, principally for doors, corners, and windows.

*Population, &c.*—With respect to the ancient population, little is known. It is to be observed, however, that there have been many houses, where now there are none, and probably the tenements of land, as they were called, were smaller, and more numerous; consequently this parish, wherein, to this day, there is not a village, might perhaps be more populous than it now is, at least than it was 10 or 12 years ago. From the register of births, for 10 years down, from 1695 inclusive, the average was between 23 and 24; for the 10 following years, it is between 28 and 29. After that, the register begins to have been ill kept, down to the 1734; of which year, and the five following, the average of births is not quite 24. From that time, down to the year 1780, the register has been so ill kept, that it cannot be depended on. The annual average of births since that year, appears to be very nearly 29. According to Dr Webster's returns, the number was 792. The present population is 1152; males, 563; females, 589. No register of deaths has ever been kept. But from  
all



all information that can be obtained, the annual average appears not to exceed 14; so that we are manifestly a nursery, as I suppose all other country parishes are, for cities and great towns, whose industry hath hitherto been so much cherished, even at the expence, sometimes, of our radical and more valuable industry on the soil, and the first care of its productions, so little understood or valued by the luxurious citizens who live by them. But a wiser policy begins now, I think, to take place, or at least to be meditated. Marriages, in 11 years, have been 77. But frequently one only of the parties has resided in the parish. There is one woman at present alive in this parish, said to be several years above 100, and another known to be 98. The number of farmers, who rent lands in tillage, is about 50. There are, besides these, a considerable number who pay rent for small spots of land, either immediately to the proprietors, or by subtacks to principal tenants, but who depend upon their industry as day-labourers, or as handicraftsmen, for their subsistence. The families of this class are about 20. About 2000 acres of our best land, is in pasture. Each considerable farmer, besides servants who live in his house, has generally a married servant, to whom he gives a house, a small garden, and a cow's grass, with straw for her fodder in the winter, and allows him to plant, in ground prepared and dunged for his own use, 3 or 4 bushels of potatoes; and besides other indulgencies, L. 4 or L. 5 in money. The money-wages, and other articles allowed to such a servant annually, may be estimated between L. 12 and L. 14.

The number of families is 238. Upwards of 30 of these have come into the parish within these 12 years last past, owing to the division of one large farm into 13 or 14 smaller possessions, and to several subtacks on another farm, which had long lain in pasture; also to several small leases  
of



of ground for houses and gardens, with sometimes from 12 to 20 acres, for tillage and pasture. So that the increase of inhabitants in that time, seems to be nearly 200. There are 10 weavers, 7 tailors, 7 carpenters, 3 shoemakers, 10 household servants. Besides the married servants above mentioned, I reckon one male and two female servants for each of the 50 farmers, and a boy between 12 and 16 years of age. The other 20, who possess very small farms, have the work of the farm chiefly performed by themselves and their children. There are Irish families about 27, and 9 or 10 single men, employed as day-labourers. Not one half of the inhabitants, above the age of 20 years, have been born in the parish. The people are not now, in any sense, as formerly, *adsciti glebæ*. As tacks of land are commonly for 19 years, that period changes a great proportion of the inhabitants. This has of late been remarkably the case in this parish and neighbourhood; because the rents of lands have been greatly raised, and it is observed that tenants seldom agree to a great increase of rent, for a farm they have formerly occupied. There are 10 heritors, 2 of whom only reside; one writer; neither physician, surgeon, nor apothecary. There are between 90 and 100 Seceders, 6 or 7 Roman Catholics from Ireland, and the rest of the inhabitants of the Established Church. There are not quite five inhabitants to a house.

Between 40 and 50 persons emigrated from this parish to America, in the year 1775, with a view to settle there as planters or artisans.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The summer stock of black cattle, which is the chief article, without reckoning calves, may be about 2700. They are of a very good kind generally, but rather remarkable for shapes and beef, than for milk. Horses, of all ages, about 250. No considerable  
stocks



stocks of sheep are in the parish. The farmers, however, generally keep as many as supply them with wool and mutton for their families. About a third of the arable land is commonly in crop, where the land is leased for tillage. The farmers, after marling or liming grounds that have been well rested, take a crop, sometimes two, of barley or bear, then a crop or two of oats, and with the third or fourth crop lay down with rye-grass and clover; but in general only for pasture. The dung is either laid upon their lee-lands, before they break them up, or is used for raising potatoes, which are now generally horse-hoed, unless where new ground is to be taken in by planting them in lazy beds. Considerable quantities are exported to Whitehaven, Liverpool, and sometimes even to London. Very few of our farmers raise turnips or cabbages; the reason probably is our distance from any considerable market for stall-fed cattle. Hardly any wheat is sown in this parish. There is either in the soil or in the climate, more probably in the latter, something unfriendly to that grain. Even when tried by our best farmers, it has always proved of a very inferior quality. It often smuts, and our harvest is generally too rainy to save it well. The parish does much more than supply itself with provisions. Besides what it sends to the neighbouring markets of Wigton and Newtonstewart, it exports considerably, chiefly to Whitehaven and Liverpool, but sometimes also to Clyde, barley, bear and oats; and sends yearly to England, from 30 to 35 score of bullocks to the St Faith's and Hampton markets. These bullocks are not all reared in the parish, but are all grazed in it for a year or 6 months, before they are driven to England. The time of sowing oats generally commenceth about the 10th March, and that of reaping about the 10th August. No grounds lie waste or in common. We have no natural wood, and not much plantation,



tion, unless within these last 15 or 20 years. There is some shell-marl, but our marl-pits are nearly exhausted. There is one farm in the parish employs 3 ploughs, 5 or 6 more employ 2 on each. The greater part of the rest, each of them one. Some few small farmers join 2 or 3 together, to make up horses for a plough, so that in all there are about 55 ploughs employed. We have three kinds of ploughs in use: The Scotch plough made lighter than formerly; the Carlisle plough, and the chain-plough. We have no waggons, but two carts may be reckoned to each plough. The land rent of the parish may be about L. 5300. There has not been much change in landed property for 30 years back.

*Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The church is old, and bears no date. The manse was built in 1731. The stipend is L. 75; the glebe about 9 acres of very bad soil. The Crown and Mr Agnew of Shuchane are vice patrons. Sir William Maxwell of Monreith claims likewise a *vice*. The poor on the roll are 17. Some others receive occasional assistance. The funds for their relief are chiefly collections, and voluntary donations of the heritors. There is only L. 20 Sterling of fund belonging to the poor of this parish, L. 10 of which was a legacy, and the other L. 10 saved in good times. There is no market within the parish. Wigton is the nearest market town.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—An able labourer's day's wages are 1 s. masons and carpenters 1 s. 6 d. tailors 1 s. The fuel commonly made use of is peat, from moss within the parish, at 3 d. the sack of 8 bushels in the moss, the carriage in proportion to the distance. We have no coal but by water-carriage, and paying over and above a very hard duty. The income of servants in husbandry may be from

L. 12



L. 12 to L. 14, house, garden, &c. included, together with any little thing their wives can add to it, which in this part of the kingdom is really a small matter, as there are no manufacturers established in the neighbourhood. The wages of male-servants in the farmer's family are from L. 7 to L. 7, 10s. a-year, of female-servants from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3. Such servants have it in their power to save a little money, which, however, the love of finery and of fairs often prevents.

*Antiquities.*—The vestiges of two ancient camps are observable, one of them distinct enough. Both are circular, therefore not Roman; but there is no tradition concerning them. There have been some ancient coins found at different times, turned up by the plough or the spade, in a farm called Burness, belonging to the Earl of Selkirk. In a farm of Sir William Maxwell's, a large cairn of stones being removed to build fences, a collection of human bones, half burnt, were found some years ago, in an oblong space, formed with stones set on edge, and covered with a flat stone above, without any inscription. In summer 1789, there was discovered an urn, and some bones, bearing also marks of being partly consumed with fire. There were in the place, as they describe it, two cavities, one oblong, in which was an earthen urn, the other lesser and square, in which were the bones.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Our principal object is agriculture. Nothing is manufactured for any distant market. The people are generally prudent and economical, yet humane and generous to the extent of their ability. On the whole, we enjoy a reasonable degree of the comforts and advantages of society, and the body of the people do not betray any discontentment with their situation and circumstances.



stances. Yet it is unquestionable, that the comforts of the labouring poor, and even of those immediately above them, are diminished by the increasing weight of taxes; particularly by that upon malt, of which they are not insensible, though they submit to it, as to an evil they cannot remedy. In the course of the few years I have been among them, many have found it necessary, from the high price of malt, to give up the use of malt liquor, even in the winter season, when milk is not to be had. Statesmen have no opportunity to observe such things; but, perhaps, they are not unworthy of their attention. It were much to be wished, that they who labour the soil, could be allowed to taste a little more of its fruits than what is absolutely necessary for a mere subsistence. Our hired servants enjoy the plenty of their master's family; but it is our poor householders of the labouring class I would (if I could) plead for. They merit every thing of their country. While they toil for the present generation, they rear, nurse and educate labourers, artisans and defenders for the succeeding; and this at the expence of hard drudgery, even to the last stage of existence, with few rewards but those of family-affections, when they are so happy as to enjoy them. It is not thus I preach to them, because I would neither excite nor foster discontent in their breasts; but it is thus, methinks, that the ministers of a benevolent religion should preach to senators and to statesmen.

Are there means by which the condition of the people could be ameliorated? is the most amiable of the Statistical Queries. I hope there are, though I may not be well qualified to point them out. The introduction of the coarse woollen manufacture is that which should seem to bid the fairest for the better providing of poor families. Small attempts of this kind have been made, but hitherto have always soon failed. It must ever be difficult to introduce  
manufacturers



manufacturers in a situation such as ours, where our new establishments must rival old ones in neighbouring districts. But, perhaps, the greatest barrier against household industry and manufacture among us, is the scarcity of fuel in many parts of the country. A human being pinched with cold, when confined within doors, is always an inactive being. The day-light, during the winter, is spent by many of the women and children in gathering *elding*, as they call it; that is, sticks, furze, or broom, for fuel, and the evening in warming their shivering limbs before the scanty fire which this produces. Could our Legislators be conducted through this parish in the winter months; could the Lords and Commons, during the Christmas recess, visit the cottages of the poor through these parts of the united kingdom, where nature hath refused coal, and *their* laws have more than doubled the price of it, this would be Shakespeare's "wholesome phyfic;" and would, more than any thing else, quicken their invention to find ways and means of supplying the place of the worst of taxes.

NUM.



## NUMBER XVIII.

## PARISH OF RATTRAY,

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES SMITH.**Name, Situation, Village, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Rattray is said to have taken its name from the ancient family of Rattray; it is about 4 miles long, from S. to N.; near 2 miles, from E. to W.; lying in the presbytery of Dunkeld, and Synod of Perth and Stirling: Bounded on the W. and S. by the water of Cricht, which separates it from the parish of Blairgourie; on the E. and N. by the parish of Benderley. Easter Bleaton, which belongs to the parish of Rattray, lies at 7 miles distance from it. Rattray is a village containing nearly 200 persons, who are manufacturers of coarse brown linen cloth. The situation is pleasant; a fine southern exposure above the river Cricht. The soil, sharp and dry, produces good oats and grass, with some wheat, the culture of which last has been but lately introduced. The lower part of the parish is mostly arable; the higher, partly arable, partly pasture. The land rent is about L. 1600. The inhabitants of the village are sober and diligent. There are 3 alehouses in it; but the morals of the inhabitants (a few



few individuals excepted) are not affected by them. As the air is pure, and the soil dry, the inhabitants are healthy; no epidemical distemper is known.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants, according to Dr Webster, was 751. At present, 500; which is considerably less than when I knew the parish in 1756. There were then many more small tenants than there is now. The ground was let out in small farms or pendicles, and many who had these, were weavers; but of late, some of the proprietors have let their ground in larger farms, and many of these small tenants have been removed. The annual number of marriages, is 10; baptisms, 20; and deaths, 20. In the parish are upwards of 42 weavers, 22 of them in the village; 16 feuers. In the village 6 tailors, 5 shoemakers, 4 wrights, 2 smiths, 2 masons, 3 flax-dressers, about 60 Seceders, 3 lint mills for dressing flax, a considerable quantity of which is raised, (one of these mills is soon to be turned into a mill for spinning cotton), 3 bleachfields, 2 distilleries.

*Church, Stipend, School, &c.*—The church and manse are old, and not in good repair. The glebe nearly 6 acres. The stipend L. 65. Earl of Kinnoul, patron. There are 5 heritors. The salary of the schoolmaster is L. 8, 6s. 8d. and the perquisites amount nearly to the same sum; the number of scholars about 40.

*Ruins.*—To the S. E. of the village, there is a rising ground, known by the name of the Castle Hill, upon which the vestiges of a very large building are to be seen, which was called the Castle of Rattray, and was the residence of the family of Rattray, of great antiquity, according to the account given of it in the Baronage of Scotland.

About



About 2 miles N. of the village, is Craighall, which almost exceeds description. The house stands upon the point of a rock, above the river Cricht, at least 100 feet in height. It was a place of strength. The river, and that high rock, defended it upon the N. and W. side. There is no way to it, but from the S. There are round towers at each side of the house, and the vestiges of a ditch. Above the river, S. E. from the village, in a beautiful situation, is a Druidical temple, much defaced, and many of the stones carried off. The farm upon which it has been built, is called Standing Stones.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is at a little distance from Rattray, a cascade or fall of water, about 10 feet high, over a rugged rock, which forms a pool below, where salmon are caught. It goes by the name of the Keith Fishing, and rents at L. 30 a year. The mode of fishing is curious: They make what they call a *drimuck*, resembling thin wrought mortar, which they throw into the pool, to disturb the clearness of the water. The fishers stand upon the point of the rock, with long poles, and nets upon the end of them, with which they rake the pool, and take up the fish. Sportsmen look upon the water of Cricht, as one of the finest rivers for rod-fishing, both for trout and salmon.—The mosses are mostly exhausted, which renders fuel expensive. Coals, from Dundee and Perth, are the principal fuel made use of here, which takes up much time, as the carriage is both long and expensive.



## NUMBER XIX.

## PARISH OF ARDCLACH,

(COUNTY OF NAIRNE.)

*By the Rev. Mr DONALD MITCHELL.**Name, Situation, River, Surface, &c.*

THE name Ardclach is Gaelic, and signifies 'a stony high ground.' The parish is situated in the extremity of the county of Nairne, and lies S. E. of the town of Nairne, in the presbytery of Nairne, and Synod of Moray. It is bounded by Auldearn, Nairne, Calder, Moy, Duthel and Edinkelly, and reckoned about 10 or 12 miles long, and between 7 and 8 broad, divided by Findhorn river, which is not navigable; neither is there a possibility of rendering it so. During the summer months, some salmon pass up from the sea, several miles above Ardclach, in this water. No other kind of fish, but trout, is to be found in it. This river is rapid, and frequently impassable every where, excepting at Dulcy bridge, on the highland road leading from Fort George to Edinburgh. There are two boats on this water within the parish, and one on the post road; but owing either to the mismanagement of the boatmen, or temerity of the people, many lives are lost. During the incumbency of the present minister,



nister, no less than 23 persons have been lost between Dulcy bridge and the post-road. The loss of lives from this cause claims attention; and the only method that can be pointed out, to prevent it, is to erect a bridge between the two boats, which would render the communication both safe and easy. This parish is a hilly mountainous district, covered with heath, and furnishes little of any other kind of pasture. There is much wood in it, consisting of firs, birch, and what is called weeping birch, alder, hazel, ash and some oaks. The birch, alder and ash, are manufactured for labouring utensils. The woods and hills abound with moor-fowl, wood-cock, partridges, hares, foxes and some deer. The otter and wild cat are frequently seen on the water's side.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The quantity of grain produced, generally serves the people; but in the years 1782 and 1783, they felt the effects of these seasons of scarcity; however, none perished from want. The principal crops are black and white oats, Scotch bear, rye and potatoes. The soil seems to be unfit for any other kinds, being shallow and thin, covered with stone, with a hard gravelly bottom. There is seldom above the third return, and the crop is much exposed to frost. It is supposed lime might improve the soil; but the tenants are in general so poor, that they cannot afford the expence of it. Attempts have been made to discover limestone within the parish, without success. The method of labouring seems to have undergone little alteration for centuries back. The farmers use the small Scotch plough, drawn by 4 or 6 black cattle, and 2 small horses, or by 4 horses and 4 black cattle. From the most accurate accounts, there are about 300 horses, 1000 black cattle, and 2000 sheep, of the small Scotch breed; a larger kind of those last have been tried, but it is generally thought a  
mixed



mixed breed answer best.—The rental produced before the Court of Teinds, in a process of augmentation in the year 1786, was 283 bolls victual, and L. 543 : 8 : 5 in money. Since that period, there has been an increase of rent in several parts of the parish, and the heritors propose giving leases in general for 19 years. The sole dependence of the tenants is on their cattle. From their want of leases, as well as the barrenness of the soil, they found it their interest to rear as many black cattle as they possibly could. It is supposed there are about 2000 acres of arable land, and 4000 acres consisting of moss and moor, a very small part of which seems to be improvable for corn-lands.

*Manufactures.*—The principal manufactures are plaiden, which is reckoned the best in the country, and coarse tartan, with a kind of broad cloth and duffle. Within these 5 years wool has sold at 18 s. the stone. Attempts have been made to raise flax, without success. There are no less than 5 licensed distilleries, which are supplied with barley and malt from the low country. Their licenses are below L. 40. It might be thought that the distilling of so much whisky, would be attended with the worst of consequences to the morals of the people; but this has not proved to be the case. As this parish abounds with moss for peats, and moss-fir, a considerable number were in use of making whisky in a smuggling way, and so had an opportunity of drinking more than was proper for them; but since the establishment of licensed distilleries, this practice has been checked, and the people are become more sober than formerly. There is no inn within the parish, but one at Dulcy bridge, on the highland road to Edinburgh.

*Prices and Wages.*—The nearest markets for butcher-meat are Forres and Nairne, about 12 miles distant from  
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this place, and meat of all kinds is commonly sold there at 3 d. and sometimes 4 d. the pound. Fowls are sold within the parish at 6 d. the lowest, and eggs at 2 d. the dozen. The wages of domestic men-servants are L. 5 and L. 6 in the year, of women-servants L. 1, 16 s. and L. 2. Day-labourers have 8 d. a-day, with their victuals; and till of late they were satisfied with 6 d.

*Population, &c.*—The air appears to be healthy. Many still alive are past 70, and some past 80 years of age; and it is said there have been instances of a few arriving at 100. From the list given to Dr Webster, the number of souls then was 1163, in 1781 it was 1167, at present 1186. The proportion of males to females is as 18 to 20. There are 4 heritors, none of whom reside. No Dissenters. Many persons emigrated from the parish a short time before the American war. There are no uninhabited houses; the houses in general are built of seal, and of some stones in the foundation. As the people have several burying places without the parish, deaths cannot be exactly ascertained; but for some years back, it is believed they have not exceeded 24 in the course of the year, and births are between 30 and 40. St Anthony's fire is a disease peculiar to the people of this place, both young and old. The small pox is frequently fatal here as in other places, and has been remarkably so this season, to children and some advanced in years. The most effectual way to remove their prejudices against inoculation, would be for the heritors to defray the expence for a limited period.

*Church, Stipend, Poor, School, &c.*—The church is said to have been built in 1626, and was rebuilt about 30 years ago. The manse was built in 1744. The stipend is L. 55 : 16 : 9 Sterling, and 31 bolls, 3 firlots, 3 pecks oat-meal.



meal. The glebe is between 4 and 5 acres arable, with little grass. Miss Brodie of Lethen has the right of patronage.—There is no fund for the poor, excepting the weekly collections, which amount to about L. 3 or L. 4 yearly. The number of poor on the roll is 35, though many more might be added. This sum, joined to the collections made when the Sacrament is dispensed, furnish but a scanty allowance. The ordinary method by which the poor in this country procure a subsistence is by begging.—The salary of the parish school is L. 10 Sterling, and the number of scholars in winter is about 40. There is besides a Society school in a distant part of the parish, for reading and writing, where the number of children this winter have been upwards of 40, and another called a Spinning-school, to which Miss Brodie of Lethen pays about half the salary, the rest is paid by the Society, making in all L. 10 Sterling. Miss Brodie likewise gives the persons who have charge of this school fuel *gratis*.

NUM-



## NUMBER XX.

## PARISH OF UDNY.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN ROSE.**Situation, Surface, Soil, and Minerals.*

**T**HE parish of Udney was an erection from the neighbouring parishes of Logie Buchan, Ellon, Tarves, and Foveran, in the end of the 16th, or beginning of the 17th century. One estate pays stipend to the minister of Logie Buchan, and five estates to the minister of Ellon; a full evidence that these estates were taken off these two parishes. It is situated in the county and Synod of Aberdeen, and presbytery of Ellon. In extent 5 computed miles square. It is bounded on the N. and N. W. by the parish of



of Tarves; on the W. by Bourtie; on the S. W. by Kiethhall; on the S. by Newmacher; on the S. E. by Belhelvie; on the E. by Foveran; on the N. E. by Logie Buchan and Ellon. The general appearance of the country is pretty flat, with small eminences or little hills, covered with short grass. The soil is in general a deep loam, with a considerable proportion of wet ground, partly on a clay bottom. There are small streams of water in the valleys, from which the lands rise gently on each side, and are tolerably fertile. The air is healthy. Agues are scarcely known. There are quarries of granite for building, and abundance of stones in the fields. At Pitmedden there is a limestone quarry, which was formerly wrought, but now discontinued, on account of water breaking in upon it. Upon the Mains of Udney, is another. The lime is sold at 1 s. 4½ d. the boll slacked lime, consisting of 4 firlots, 32 Stirling pints in each. The demand for this lime, will be principally from the district of Garioch, where they have no lime-quarries. The English shell-lime sold at Newburgh at 2 s. 8 d. the boll, yielding 3 bolls slacked, is found by the farmers here to be much cheaper.

*Population.*—The numbers of the people, according to Dr Webster, were 1322. The amount of the present population, in January 1791, is 1137 souls; of whom, 571 males, 566 females.

*Births,*



*Births, Marriages, and Burials, for the last five years.*

| Years. | Births.      |          |      | Marriages. | Burials.      |            |
|--------|--------------|----------|------|------------|---------------|------------|
|        | Males.       | Females. | Sum. |            | Parishioners. | Strangers. |
| 1786   | 11           | 7        | 18   | 6          | 11            | 20         |
| 1787   | 13           | 13       | 26   | 6          | 7             | 9          |
| 1788   | 8            | 12       | 20   | 6          | 15            | 13         |
| 1789   | 7            | 7        | 14   | 15         | 10            | 17         |
| 1790   | 14           | 11       | 25   | 6          | 17            | 19         |
| <hr/>  |              |          |      |            |               |            |
|        | 53           | 50       | 103  | 39         | 60            | 78         |
|        | Average, 20. |          |      | Aver. 8.   | Average, 12.  |            |

By the above list, the annual average of births, is 20. But as parents sometimes neglect the registering their childrens names, it may be called 22.

Probably 3 more may be added to the average of burials, on account of some parishioners here being buried in different church-yards; so that the annual average of deaths, of parishioners, is 15.

The number of souls under 10 years of age, is about 202; from 70 to 80, about 23; from 80 to 90, 5. 986 are of the Established Church; 107 Episcopalians; 35 Seceders; 4 Quakers; and 5 Roman Catholics. Number of inhabited houses, 259; about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  persons to each. No towns nor villages. There are 11 heritors, 2 of whom only reside; 9 shoemakers, 10 smiths, 4 tailors, 7 wrights, 4 weavers, 2 masons, 1 flater, who are employed in working for the inhabitants of the parish, have crofts of land, and are consequently in part occupied in husbandry. The other inhabitants are farmers, and their subtenants. The population seems to be less than it was some years ago. In 1768, there were about 1116, above 7 years of age; in 1780,



1780, 1034; in January 1791, only 900. As peats and turf are the usual fuel, I ascribe this diminution to the materials becoming scarcer; from which several of the subtenants have removed to the neighbouring parishes, and particularly to Aberdeen, where the different manufactures established there, afford them occupation. The proportion of annual births, taking the average of 5 years to the whole population, January 1791 is as 1 to 52 nearly; of annual marriages, as 1 to 142; of annual deaths, as 1 to 76. In autumn 1790, a putrid ulcerous sore throat, in this and some neighbouring parishes, proved fatal to many, as appears by the above list of burials for that year.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The late proprietor of the lands of Udney, who was one of the Commissioners of Excise, was perhaps the first gentleman in this part of the country, who raised abundant crops of red clover and turnips upon his fields. His farm here, of above 400 acres, he improved at a very considerable expence. From 200 to 250 acres are inclosed by a neat stone fence, two rows of elms or beeches, and a hawthorn hedge. He reared riding horses of an excellent breed, and cattle of a much larger size than such as were in this country formerly. Ten or twelve cattle were usually fattened by the turnips, and sold for the Aberdeen market yearly.—The residing heritors occupy part of their own grounds, on which they are carrying on improvements. One of them has a small farm in excellent order, producing abundant crops of grain, sown grass, and turnips of an excellent sort, and early. Another heritor, who occasionally resides, has improved his estate at a considerable expence. It is now inclosed by stone fences, and produces abundant crops of grain, and large quantities of hay. The valued rent of the parish is L. 5831. Scots; the real rent, about L. 2100 or L. 2200 Sterling,



Sterling, partly paid in victual, partly in money. Infield land, in small parcels, lets at L. 1 the boll's sowing; meadow, at 7s. or 8s.; outfield, from 2s. to 4s.; but in large farms, the rent is not near so high. The lands are in general uninclosed. Property, in land, has not shifted much for some time. Thirty years purchase, when the estate is low rented, is the common price. Barley, oats, pease, turnips, potatoes, clover and rye grass, with small quantities of lint, are the productions of the parish. There are very few trees. At Knapornay, and upon the Mains of Udny, are some inclosures of Scotch fir, fit for use. At Udny, are ashes, elms, beeches, and planes, of considerable size. Those few proprietors who reside in the parish, and 12 or 13 of the farmers, have fields of sown grass and turnips. They purchase lime for their grounds, and have a proper rotation of crops; but among all the others, the old mode of farming prevails, *viz.* Each year they manure with the dung of their cattle one third of what is called infield ground, in which bear is sown; then follow two successive crops of oats, by which means the ground is never cleaned of weeds. They fold their cattle on the outfields, and take 3 or 4 successive crops of oats. The great produce of the parish is oats, made into meal by the farmers; part of it is paid in rent to the proprietor of the land, and the remainder sold at Aberdeen. Much more grain is produced in the parish than is annually consumed in it. The farms are universally thirled to a mill, and obliged to pay, some the 11th or 12th, many the 16th or 20th part of the produce to the tacksmen of the mill, whether the corns are carried to the mill or not.—Formerly there were 80 ploughs in the parish. Ten or twelve oxen were then generally used in a plough. Horses being seldom used, unless during spring, after a severe winter; the farmers sometimes then yoked their horses in a plough. Now there are  
about



about 20 farmers in the parish, who still use 10 oxen in the plough; 10 or 11 farmers, use 6 or 8 oxen. The other ploughs are drawn by 4 horses, or by 2 or 4 cattle, with 2 horses going before them. There are about 87 ploughs in the parish, in all.—Very few sheep are kept; not having extensive pasturage for them. The farmers find it more profitable to rear cattle. They all have cows; and the butter of this parish has been long famous for its excellent quality. It is generally sold in the Aberdeen market at 8 d. the pound, 28 ounces Averdupois for the pound; or salted for the inhabitants of Aberdeen, at that price. The cheese is sold there, from 4 s. to 5 s. the stone, 28 pounds English the stone. Cows of a middling size, generally yield of milk from 6 to 8 Scotch pints the day, and their produce for a season (*i. e.* butter and cheese) may be reckoned in value, from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterling, from each cow. Some farmers have cows of a larger size, which give from 10 to 11 or 12 Scotch pints in the day. One keeps 14 large cows, the milk of which, after the cream is taken off, is sent every day to Aberdeen, (8 miles distant), and sold from 1 d. to 1½ d. the Scotch pint. The butter made from these cows, was 2 stone weight the week, and sold at 9 d. the pound.—Oats are sown in the month of March, and first part of April, and reaped in September and October. Bear is sown in April, and first part of May, reaped the end of August and month of September. Turnips are sown in the middle, or towards the end of June, and used during winter. The parish does much more than supply itself in provisions, besides meal and bear. Fat cattle, a few sheep, poultry, chiefly hens and ducks, are sold at Aberdeen.

*Prices, Wages, Fuel, Earnings, &c.*—The price of a hen or duck is from 8 d. to 10 d.; eggs 3 d. and 4 d. the dozen,  
 VOL. IV. X and



and sometimes 5 d. or 6 d. The day's wages of a labourer in husbandry are 9 d. in summer, and 7 d. in winter, or in summer 6 d. with victuals; of a carpenter 1 s. mason 1 s. 6 d. tailor 6 d. with his victuals. The usual wages of a man-servant employed in husbandry are L. 5 a-year, when hired for harvest L. 1, 10 s. Sterling; of a woman-servant are from L. 2, 5 s. to L. 2, 10 s. Sterling a-year, when hired for harvest 16 s. 8 d. or 18 s. 4 d. receiving their victuals in the house. The farmers are obliged to hire servants for the whole harvest, as day-labourers cannot be procured. The wages of a man in harvest for a day are 1 s. with his victuals. The fuel generally used is peat or turf. The casting, drying their peat and turf, and driving them, employ the farmers servants and horses during a great part of the summer, and prove a great obstacle to the improvement of their grounds. The farmers are far from being in comfortable circumstances. Few of them have at first money for purchasing a sufficient stock of cattle, and are never able to improve them. By following the old mode of farming, as above mentioned, though they work hard along with their servants, and live with great sobriety, they can scarcely pay their rents, and the wages of their servants, which have of late risen fully one-third more than 15 or 20 years ago. The women and children are employed in working stockings for the manufacturers in Aberdeen. They or their servants come once a-fortnight to different parts of the parish, give wool to be spun, and worked on the wires into stockings. A woman gains from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. a-week. Some few spin lint, by which a little more may be gained. It is not easy precisely to ascertain the expence of a common labourer when married. He has a boll's sowing or two from the tenant; it is plowed to him; his cow kept in summer with the farmer's cattle; and the straw of his corn from his croft maintains the cow during winter.



winter. He has liberty to cast turf for himself, and sometimes a few peats. He works to the farmer in harvest, attends the plough during winter and spring, at which time he either receives his victuals in the farmer's house, or has allowed him 2 pecks of oat-meal a-week. What time he has to spare in summer, from Whitsunday to harvest, he works for day's wages to different persons. His wife and children weave stockings, as above mentioned, until the boys are fit for herding cattle. What is thus earned, if he and his wife are industrious, and his family keep in health, maintains them in a sober way. Oat-meal, cabbages, greens, potatoes, whey, and sometimes part of the milk of his cow, are their daily fare. Beer or ale they can seldom taste. One great hardship is, that after having improved his small croft, it is sometimes taken from him. He possesses it only from year to year, and is therefore obliged to remove from place to place.

*Stipend, Church, School and Poor.*—The value of the living, converting the meal paid in stipend at 10 s. the boll, the barley at 12 s. and the glebe at the common rent of ground here, is about L. 70 or L. 71 Sterling. Mr Udney of Udney is patron. The church was at first built about 1600, was partly rebuilt in 1760, and received a partial reparation in 1786, but is by far too small for the accommodation of the parish. A new manse was built in 1759, and was considerably enlarged and repaired in 1781. A new school-house was erected in 1786.—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 11 Sterling. There are generally from 30 to 40 scholars, and at present 11 boarders, at 13 guineas a-year, for board and education.—The number of poor is from 20 to 22. None of them go about as beggars, but we have a considerable number of such from Aberdeen and neighbouring places. The annual amount of the funds for  
their



their relief is from L. 28 to L. 30, arising from some small mortifications, and the dues of mortcloths; but principally from the collections in the church.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people in this parish are sober, industrious, and seemingly contented with their situation; yet there are many things which would contribute to better their circumstances. In particular, the taking off the duty on coals, by which they could supply themselves with fuel, with much less labour and expence, and be able to employ the summer in bringing lime, and inclosing their fields; whereas at present the summer is wasted in procuring peats and turf. The high duties on malt and leather, fall heavy on those who have large families. If the proprietors of estates, instead of taking *grassums* at the end of 19 years, by which their tenants are impoverished, would ask a moderate rise of rent, give them long leases, encouragement for building tolerable houses and inclosing their ground, abolish the multures at mills, so that payment could only be exacted for work, and oblige the tenants to sublet their ground to subtenants for a certain number of years, and if the public roads, which are exceedingly bad, were under better management, and kept in proper repair, the situation of all ranks would be considerably improved.—None have died from want; nor have murders, suicides, or atrocious crimes been committed for many years past. None have been banished from the parish, nor obliged to leave it for want of employment, as there is a scarcity of hands for work in husbandry. Such as have removed, have had a view of better encouragement at Aberdeen, or in the neighbouring parishes. Crops 1782 and 1783, being very deficient, many of the farmers were then obliged to dispose of their oxen; and they have not yet recovered the loss then sustained, nor  
been



been able to keep so good cattle, or such a number of them as formerly. Crop 1782, from want of sunshine to ripen it, and by intense frost and snow, which came on before it could be cut down, was exceedingly deficient. The inhabitants of this parish bought bear and pease imported at Aberdeen, by which, with their own scanty crop, they supported themselves. The church-session purchased some meal and grain, which they caused make into meal; this was sold in small quantities, to the poorest of the parishioners. Thirty bolls of meal, and 2 bolls of pease, granted by Government in 1783, proved a useful and seasonable supply to many, so that no person died for want; but, as I have already mentioned, many of the farmers were considerably impoverished by these two deficient crops.

NUM.



## NUMBER XXI.

## PARISH OF ORMISTOUN,

## (COUNTY OF EAST LoTHIAN.)

*By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER COLVILL.**Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

ORMISTOUN parish is situated on the west skirts of the county of East Lothian, in the presbytery of Dalkeith, and Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. Its form is very irregular, resembling in some measure a horse's shoe, winding about the parish of Pencaitland on the N. W. and S. The length is about 5 miles, the breadth very different at different places, being from 3 miles to about half a mile. It is bounded by the parish of Tranent on the N. by Pencaitland on the E. by Humbie on the S. and by Cranston on the W. The appearance of the country in general is flat. It is inclosed with hedges of white thorn, mixed with sweet briar, honeysuckle and hedge-row trees. A stranger entering the parish, is apt to mistake it for England. In general the soil is wet and late, but the air is dry and the situation healthy; no prevailing distempers. Freestone is scarce, and what is, is very coarse. Limestone in abundance.



dance. We have one coal-mine, excellent in its quality, the property of the Earl of Hopetoun.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Best lands let from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 1, 15 s. the acre. In general, there are but few cattle bred here, except what the farmers have occasion for in the working of their farms, which they labour mostly with horses. The cattle they do breed are excellent, both horses and cows. Every farmer supplies his stock of horses from his own breeding mares, which he covers with strong made stallions from the north of England, of the draught kind; and sometimes with strong made horses of the road or hunting kind. One farmer here thinks the best breed comes from a stout blood stallion with his own working mares. Our cows are a mixture of the Holdernefs kind, with that of this country. They are short horned and handsome, fatten well, and give much milk. We have had frequent instances of 20 Scotch pints in the day. That quantity indeed is rather extraordinary, but from 10 to 15 is common. Provisions of all kinds, fish excepted, abound in this parish; and besides, it sends out supplies to the metropolis, and neighbouring towns.—We sow in the months of March, April and May, and generally begin to reap in the first week of September. There are employed in the parish at present about 25 ploughs. The farmers deal much in the different kinds of sown grass, viz. clovers, rye-grass, trefoil, rib-grass, first for hay, and then for pasture. The ploughs in general are of Small's construction. They have a cast yetland mould-board, which is curved, and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick at the under edge, tapering upwards to about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch at the higher edge. They have plated or winged socks of iron, shoes and earth-board of the same metal, with a kneed coulter. Some have a chain fixed to the under side of the beam behind, and to the muzzle before, by



by which the plough is directed. A well made improved Scotch plough is also used by the farmers here. Both instruments perform well in the hands of a skilful ploughman, who takes care to apply them to soils to which they are adapted.—The Earl of Hopetoun has valuable woods in this parish, consisting of about 70 Scotch acres.

*Population.*—It does not appear that the population of this parish has either been much increased or diminished for at least 100 years past. The return to Dr Webster was 810. There are at present 193 families, 132 married women, 398 above 7 years of age, and 141 below 7 years of age. The amount of the whole 864, including all sectarists. The annual average of births for 10 years, beginning with 1709, is 26; for 10 years, beginning with 1734, is 28; and for 10 years, beginning 1775, is 27. If the idea were just, ‘That the population of any district or country may be known with sufficient accuracy, by multiplying the births by 26,’ the present population of this parish would be 702, but which is 162 less than it really is. Multiplying our births by 32, corresponds with the state of our population as near as can be. Multiplying the births by 26, may perhaps ascertain the population of large cities and manufacturing towns, which are always unfavourable to the rearing of children; but, in my opinion, it cannot be applied with exactness, to healthy situations in the country. In general, throughout Scotland, it is not a register of births that is kept by the clerk of the parish, but a register of baptisms. On this account, children who are not baptised (as several are not) are not registered. Children also, whose parents are unable or unwilling to pay the dues to the clerk, are generally not registered; so that from these, and various other circumstances, I am far from thinking that the register of baptisms in Scotland is  
to



to be depended upon, for bringing out an exact state of the population of our country. A few persons have emigrated in quest of better encouragement. There are 193 inhabited houses, and the number of persons at an average to each house is  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Prices and Wages.*—The price of beef, mutton, pork and lamb 50 or 60 years ago, was from  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. the Dutch pound. Few calves are, or ever were fed in this parish. Other articles were proportionably low. The present average price of beef, mutton, pork and lamb, throughout the year, is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. Wheat and other grain has advanced high this year; but the average price is, wheat L. 1, 1s. the boll, barley 17s. oats 14s. and pease 12s. In husbandry, the wages of labourers, by the day, are from 9d. to 1s.; of wrights, 1s. 4d.; of brick-layers and masons, from 1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d.; tailors, smiths and weavers have not advanced their wages so high as others mentioned above. Common labourers, when married, receive the same wages with those mentioned above. If the man is fortunate in having a frugal and industrious wife, he is able to maintain and educate his family very well.

*Village of Ormiston.*—The village of Ormiston is the only one in this parish which deserves the name. It contains between 500 and 600 persons, who enjoy almost every natural and moral advantage for domestic comfort. In respect of health, the situation is very favourable. The village stands upon gravel, and consists chiefly of two rows of houses of two stories, the one fronting the south, and the other the north, with a broad airy street between them. In the middle of the street is a cross, of which there is no tradition; but from its ancient appearance, it is evidently a relic of Popery. The houses on both sides of the street are



are sheltered by trees, which grow in the hedge-rows of the adjacent inclosures, but not so much as to prevent a free circulation of air. Of this last circumstance the Earl of Hopetoun is so attentive, as to give orders to thin his trees when they are hurtful to the inhabitants. This is chiefly a farming village. Though attempts have been made, the linen manufacture never succeeded here. At present we have two distilleries, and a starch-work, employing between 30 and 40 hands.

*Antiquities.*—On the top of Dodridge Law, the highest ground in this parish, about 2 miles S. from the church, there are to be seen the remains of what is said to have been a Roman camp. But the late Dr Henry of Edinburgh seemed rather to think it Danish.

*Eminent Men.*—This parish gave birth to the Cockburns of Ormiston, a Protestant family at the Reformation, and Whig afterwards. Cockburn, Lord Justice-Clerk, was eminent as a judge and lawyer. John, his son and successor, no less so as a statesman and patriotic representative of his country in the Union Parliament, and in several succeeding Parliaments. He was for a considerable time one of the Lords of the Admiralty. In this high station he distinguished himself by his abilities and attention in promoting the general commerce of Britain, and preserving un sullied the honour of the British Flag. About the year 1740, he retired from public business, to settle on his own estate, which he considerably improved, but to which he did not confine his attention; for wherever his presence was necessary to excite a spirit of improvement in agriculture and the linen manufacture, there you found Mr John Cockburn. He contributed to erect the first bleachfield in Scotland; and it was by his example and influence, that the first vigorous exertions



exertions were made in the making and repairing of high roads in this neighbourhood. Thus, from feeble beginnings, works of public utility became general through the county.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people in general are economical, but for their circumstances have rather too expensive a taste.—Property in land has been more fixed in this parish than in most others. The estate of Ormiston has only once changed its proprietor for several hundred years. In the year 1747, the late Earl of Hopetoun being then proprietor of three farms in the parish, purchased the whole, so the present Earl is now sole heritor and patron of the parish. The roads in general are in bad repair, and some bridges are wanted. The badness of our roads, however, is not owing to carelessness, but to the deepness of the soil, and the scarcity of proper materials for repairing them. I despair of seeing them much altered for the better, till a proper turnpike-law is obtained.—In the scanty years of 1782 and 1783, the poor no doubt suffered; but from the humanity of the Earl of Hopetoun, not so much as might have been apprehended.—Near the village of Ormiston, on the south, is a bridge of two arches, built many years ago over the Tyne, a very small river indeed at this place, but by additions which it receives in its course to the German Ocean, which it enters about 20 miles N. E. from Ormiston, near the seat of the Earl of Haddington, it is greatly increased. Its source is about 8 miles southward in the moor of Middleton, a high ground, and connected with hills of considerable extent and height.—The year 1735 or 1736 was marked by a considerable land-flood. In the month of June, when the day was still, and clear sun-shine, not a drop of rain having fallen either on that day or the preceding, a sea of water came rolling along



along the plain, through which the Tyne runs, covering the adjacent fields with about 3 feet depth of water. It certainly proceeded from a water-spout, falling on the high grounds, near the source of the river. The sudden melting of snow, and heavy falls of rain, are also frequently the cause of floods in our river; but the valley being flat, little damage is done.—In the month of September 1787, I observed, between 11 and 12 o'clock at night, a complete rainbow; the moon shining bright in the east; no wind; a little rain gently falling in the west, and the arch appearing between me and the rain. The colours were variegated, but all faint.—In Lord Hopetoun's garden at Ormiston Hall, there is a remarkable yew tree. Its trunk is 11 feet in circumference, and 25 feet in length; the diameter of the ground overspread by its branches is 53 feet; and there is about the 20th part of an English acre covered by it. This tree is still growing in full vigour, without the least symptom of decay in any of its branches, which increase yearly in length about an inch. There is no tradition that can be depended upon, for exactly ascertaining its age; but from the best information, it cannot be under 200 years old. It seems rather more probable to be between 300 and 400 years old.

NUM.



NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF CUSHNIE,

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr FRANCIS ADAM.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

CUSHNIE, or *Coushníe*, is said to signify in the Gaelic, "Hoarfrost." The parish lies in the county and Synod of Aberdeen, and presbytery of Alford. It is small, irregular, and mountainous. Bounded by the parishes of Tarland on the S.; Forbes and Kildrummie, on the N.; Coldstone, on the W.; Leochel, on the E.; Towie, on the N. W.; Alford, on the N. E.; and Coul, on the S. E. The soil is but indifferent, and somewhat inclined to clay; the air, although moist, is tolerably healthy; and the hills are covered with heath. The weather is much more severe than in its neighbourhood, occasioned, no doubt, by its situation; being in the bosom of a large open glen, and pretty high. There is very little wood, and no mineral, excepting a quarry of good building stones, near the Church, easily wrought. A small rivulet issues from the glen, in the western extremity of the parish, which is pretty well stored with burn-trout, and runs eastward, until it meets with the burn, of Leochel, where they



they take a more northerly course, until they empty themselves into the Don.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster, the number of souls, about 40 years ago, was 500. The amount at present is, by actual enumeration, 207 males, and 223 females; total 430. At an average of 20 years, from 1731 to 1751, there have been 16 births yearly; but from 1770 to 1790, 11 baptisms only appear from the records; and from 1785 to 1790, only 4 marriages yearly.

The inhabitants are in general healthy, and live to a considerable age; some to 80, and even 90 years, but few beyond that period. Nor have there been any murders or suicides, or any banishments; and but very few emigrations. Neither have any died from want, to my knowledge, in the parish.

The proportion between the births and whole population, is as 1 to 40 nearly; between the marriages and population, as 1 to 107; and each marriage, at an average, produces about 4 children. The number of heritors is 4, none of whom reside. There are 7 Seceders, and 4 Episcopalians.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The farms are generally small, from L. 5 to L. 6 Sterling yearly rent, and uninclosed. Nor are the farmers convinced of the advantages of inclosures. The rent of the best arable ground, is from 18 s. to 20 s. each acre; and the worst, from 8 s. to 10 s. the acre. There are in the parish, about 34 ploughs of arable ground, and 24 carts. The old Scotch plough is generally used as most proper for stiff and stony ground. We generally sow in the months of March and April, and reap in September and October; and the parish does, for the most part, supply itself with provisions. Our exports are very trifling; sometimes



sometimes a little oat-meal and bear, and a few black cattle. The land rent of the parish is about L. 456 Sterling, converting the victual at 10s. the boll.

*Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The church is covered with heath, and was built in 1637, and the manse in 1724. The value of the living, including the glebe, is L. 49 : 6 : 8 Sterling, converting the victual at 10s. the boll. In the year 1782, about 20 persons were on the poors roll, which, in 1790, were reduced to half that number. Our annual contributions, with the interest of legacies, seat-money, &c. after deducting session-clerk and officer fees, amount to about L. 7, 2 s. Sterling.

*Wages, &c.*—A common day-labourer earns 6d.; a mason, 1s.; a carpenter, from 6d. to 8d.; and a tailor, 6d. a day, exclusive of maintenance. I cannot positively ascertain the expence of a labourer, when married; but it is well known that such have great difficulty in rearing their families, as it is only for a few months in summer that they can get employment; and were it not that the women make something by knitting stockings, and that the female children are employed in that way as soon as capable, it would be absolutely impossible for them, without assistance, to make a shift to live. The fuel is turf and peat. The annual wages of a man servant, employed in husbandry, are from L. 5 to L. 6 Sterling; those of a woman, from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterling; and for boys, from 30s. to 40s. Sterling, exclusive of maintenance.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The men are by no means fond of a military life. The women are employed in spinning and knitting; and, for the most part, both sexes are industrious and economical. The stature of the men is,  
from



from 5 feet 4 inches, to 6 feet; and that of the women, from 5 feet 2 inches, to 5 feet 8 inches. It is difficult to say whether the people are, on the whole, contented with their situation. If I may hazard an opinion, I think they are not. The shortness of their leases, their high rents, and the exorbitant wages of the labouring servants, render the situation of the farmers very irksome. I observe that even the prices of the shoes worn by the country people, although the dearest article of wearing apparel, are but about thrice the price for which they were bought about 40 years ago; whereas the fees or wages of labouring servants have still increased in a greater degree since that period. The shoes are as 1 s. to 3 s. Sterling; but the wages as 15 s. to L. 3 Sterling. I observe, however, that the common people live rather better, and dress to more advantage than in former times; although every article of wearing apparel, particularly that most necessary one, shoes, are at least thrice the price for which they could have been procured about 40 years ago. This is no doubt, in some measure, owing to the increase of manufactures, and value of cattle, which generally fetch triple, if not four times the price they gave in former times. Superstition seems also, if I mistake not, to lose ground, and the manners of the people are somewhat more polished. Natural children are by no means so frequent here, as formerly; although delinquents are much less harshly dealt by.—The statute-labour is generally exacted in kind, but the roads are very indifferent. There are no turnpikes; nor do the people know enough about them, to form a judgment of their utility.—In 1782 and 1783, the crop was remarkably deficient, and the oat-meal very bad; inso-much, that had it not been for the importation, numbers would have perished. I myself had scarcely a boll of meal for every 5 bolls of raw or undried oats. The bear was  
the



the only grain on which we could have any dependence; and even this was so much inferior to former years, as to be, as well as the oats, unfit for seed. So that we were obliged to get our feed from more early places; and such as did not, turned out to be great losers.

English is the only language now known in the parish, the Gaelic having ceased to be understood.



## NUMBER XXIII.

## PARISH OF RYND,

## (COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM TAYLOR.**Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, Surface, &c.*

**T**HE name, in Gaelic, is said to signify ‘a point;’ and both the parish and the estate of Rynd, probably took this name from the point of land where the rivers Tay and Earn meet, about half a mile below the church. The parish is situated in the county of Perth, in the presbytery of Perth, and Synod of Perth and Stirling. It extends from the point mentioned, more than 4 miles along the river Tay, and meets the parish of Perth at Orchardnook. It is about a mile in breadth; the line that divides it from the parish of Dumbarnie on the one side, being nearly parallel to the winding course of the Tay on the other; so that the form of the parish is nearly oblong, having the church (very inconveniently for the bulk of the people) placed almost in one of the angles. It is bounded by the parishes of Perth and Dumbarnie on the W.; by that of Abernethy on the S. from which it is separated by the river Earn; and on the E. and N. by the parishes of St Madois and Kinfauns, from which it is separated by the Tay.

In



In general, the soil is fertile. The ground is flat for about a mile and a half from the river Earn to the east end of the hill of Moncrieff, and the soil a deep clay. A narrow strip of the same clay soil lies all around the east end of the hill, by the side of the Tay, up to Orchardnook; and from this strip the ground rises by an ascent so easy, that it is all arable. The soil upon this rising ground is light and sharp, but abundantly fertile, when properly laboured and limed. There are besides some haughs, close by the rivers Tay and Earn, lying about 30 feet lower than the flat clay soil mentioned above, and some islands in the Tay, belonging to the parish, all of a rich loamy soil, which, when the tides are kept off (as has been endeavoured to be done) by banks, have yielded the most luxuriant crops, without any manure, for several years. The air is rather moist, but not unhealthy. Agues have been less frequent than in some places where the air should seem to be drier, owing perhaps to a stream of air which is generally found upon the banks of rivers.

*Population.*—The return of the number of inhabitants to Dr Webster was 498; in 1766, it was about 450; at present it is 495, although the farmers who have come into the parish since that time do not keep up so many cottar-houses; and in some cases two farms have been turned into one. The annual average of births is about 16; of marriages about 4. There are under 10 years of age 126; between 10 and 20, 97; between 20 and 50, 182; between 50 and 70, 77; above 70, 13; in all 495; of whom, males, 235, females, 260; married above 20, including widowers and widows, 190; unmarried above 20, 83; the average number of children to each family is  $6\frac{1}{2}$ . A person named Laurence Kinmont, died here in the year 1757, aged 111; and there have been several instances of lives between 80  
and



and 100, within this century. There are 3 heritors, one of whom resides in the parish. There are 22 handicraftsmen, about 30 fishermen, and 1 ferryman. About 160 are of the Established Church, and about 270 Seceders. There are 86 inhabited houses. The average number to each house is computed to be 5 inhabitants.

*Agriculture, &c.*—There are 5 principal farmers, who possess from 200 to 360 acres each, which they labour with a plough for about every 40 acres; there are 10 other farmers, who possess from 30 to 60 acres each, which they labour usually with one plough; and, in general, their families consist of a man for every plough, a boy or 2 to take care of their cattle, and 2 or 3 maid-servants. They have beside as many hands as are necessary to thresh out their corns, who are generally their cottagers, and are employed in threshing through the winter. The farmers have generally one part of their land, about a 6th, in fallow, another in wheat, another in pease, another in barley, another in clover and rye-grass, and another in oats. But this proportion is sometimes varied, commonly for the sake of having a greater quantity of wheat, which, besides being sown constantly after the fallow, is sown also sometimes after pease, and sometimes after grass. As the principal farmers labour in a very superior style, and raise as much out of their ground as is done perhaps any where in the island, the parish does much more than supply itself with provisions, and very considerable quantities of all kinds of grain are annually exported, but chiefly of wheat and barley. About 10 acres may be sown in flax, which they raise for their own use, and about as many in potatoes and turnips. They have not much in pasture, as they feed their horses with grass in the house, and send their young cattle to other places for pasture through the summer. Oats and pease  
are



are sown in March, barley and grafs in May, and wheat in the end of September and October. Wheat harvest commonly begins about the middle of August, sooner or later according to the season. The average rent of land the acre, may be about L. 1, 4 s. The greatest part of the parish is inclosed with quickset hedges; but the farmers begin to complain that they harbour vermin, which destroy the crop, and prevent a free circulation of air, so necessary for winning it in harvest. In the hilly part of the parish, there are about 30 acres, consisting of some waste ground, which, though mostly covered with heath and whins, yields some pasture, and of several rocky hillocks, some of which are planted with Scotch firs, in a very thriving condition. There are beside two fields in the low part of the parish as yet waste, containing about 20 acres; but they belong to two of the principal farmers, who are about to break them up. The land-rent may be about L. 1600 Sterling. The rent of the fishings may be about L. 300. There are about 112 horses, and 400 black cattle.

*Price of Labour, &c.*—The price of labour in all the operations of husbandry has increased about one half within these 40 years. A man-servant's wages in the year being now about L. 8, and a woman's 50 s. when maintained in the house. A labourer's wages for a day, without victuals, are 1 s. A man, during harvest, gets 20 s. and a woman 15 s. A labourer's wages are sufficient to enable him to bring up a family, except in cases of sickness or misfortune. A mason's wages are 1 s. 6 d. a day; a carpenter's 1 s. 2 d.; a tailor gets 6 d. with his victuals.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend, including the glebe, is between L. 90 and L. 100. Mr Oswald of Scotstown is patron. The salary of the schoolmaster is L. 8, 6 s.



6s. 8 d.; the one half paid by the heritors, and the other by the tenants. His perquisites are, 1 s. the quarter for English, 1 s. 6 d. for writing and arithmetic. The kirk-session give him 30 s. a year, as their clerk, and for teaching such poor scholars as they shall appoint. He has 6 d. for every baptism, and 1 s. for every marriage. Besides, he is appointed collector of the assessments for the poor, for which he is allowed 20 s. a-year. He has for common more than 40 scholars, part of whom are from the adjacent parts of the parishes of Perth and Dumbarnie. His whole income may amount to about L. 19 Sterling. The number of the poor is 8 at an average. The annual sum distributed to them, is about L. 21; which is made up by assessing the parish, according to law, as the other funds fall short of what the poor require.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is a steel mineral spring, in appearance very strong; but it has never been resorted to.—The common fuel is coal, which is mostly brought by water carriage. Some broom and whins are likewise used by the common people. The parish being surrounded by the rivers Tay and Earn, is a considerable advantage to the farmers, both for importing lime, &c. and exporting their grain. The roads and bridges are good. They were made, and are kept in repair by the statute-labour, which is partly exacted in kind, and partly commuted. There are no turnpikes.—The ruins of a nunnery at Orchardnook remain, about a mile W. from the castle of Elcho, close by the Tay. It is said to have been founded by David Lindsay, ancestor of the Earls of Crawford, and his mother Catharine Abernethy, a co-heiress of Alexander Lord Abernethy, who was proprietor of Elcho in the reign of Robert Bruce. The ruins lie in the middle of a large orchard, and from the ground which they



they occupy, the nunnery would appear to have been a pretty extensive building. The lands at that time are said to have belonged to the monastery of Dunfermline.

There is a tradition, that, in some very remote period, the river Tay had its course on the north side of the Carse of Gowrie, by the foot of the hills: That so long as the river kept this channel, St Madois and this were one parish: That after the Tay took its present course, by the west end of the Carse, the people still continued to cross the river in boats to the church, which, the tradition says, stood at that time farther down, and nearer to the point where the rivers Tay and Earn meet; until one Sunday, the boat was upset in a storm, and all the people in it perished: That in consequence of this, St Madois was erected into a parish by itself; and the church of Rynd removed farther up, to the place where it now stands. In confirmation of, at least, one part of the story, two known facts are alledged, *viz.* that a field in the farm of Easter Rynd, before it was inclosed, and put into its present form, was called the Kirkland; and that in tilling this field, some freestones, that seemed to have been used in building, had been turned up by the plough. There is certainly not a stone of any kind to be found in all the low flat ground that lies between the rivers and the foot of the east end of the Hill of Moncrieff, the whole being one continued mass of clay, for about 30 feet deep, intermixed with many strata of sand, of different thickneses, and in several places with beds of hard moss, which the rivers sometimes wash down from their banks, and which the common people use for fuel.

With respect to farmers, it is manifest that the employing cottager servants, and the employing unmarried house servants, have each their peculiar advantages and disadvantages; and it is hard to say, which of them ought to be



be preferred, or whether any one of them should be universally adopted in preference to the other. Much perhaps will depend upon circumstances, in any particular case. But the fact is, the principal farmers in the parish have come more into the way of employing cottagers within the last 6 years, instead of unmarried servants, as for several years before. These cottagers, however, are all hired for the year, and do not work by the day, or by the piece. With regard to the country in general, no doubt the effect of employing cottagers will be to increase population, particularly the number of labouring servants; and in consequence of this, their wages will be kept more moderate, and the farmer will more easily procure such unmarried servants as he may wish to have. The other method has evidently all the opposite effects.

There are two alehouses upon the public road, and chiefly supported by travellers, and by the fishers, during the time of the salmon fishing. In general, the morals of the people can hardly be said to suffer from them. At the same time, it must be acknowledged, that they give more easy and frequent opportunities of tippling to those who are addicted to that vice.

NUM-



## NUMBER XXIV.

## PARISH OF ABBOT'S HALL,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE SHAW.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

IT is said that an Abbot of Dunfermline built a summer-house near the place where the church of Abbot's Hall now stands, and called it the Hall of the Abbot. Abbot's Hall is in the county and Synod of Fife, and presbytery of Kirkaldy. Its form is very irregular, being intersected in several places by the neighbouring parishes. In the broadest and longest corners it may be about 2 miles each way. It is bounded by Kirkaldy on the E. Kinghorn and Auchtertool on the W. Auchterderran on the N. and the frith of Forth on the S. The general appearance of the country is very pleasant; it is flat for about near half a mile north of the coast; from thence rises into pretty high grounds, or beautiful banks, sloping gently. The air is dry and healthy. The soil, immediately by the town, is light and sandy, but very fertile, especially in showery summers. It can scarcely be hurt by rain, but easily by drought. As it rises northwards, it is deeper and stronger,



but thin and cold on the north skirts. The extent of sea-coast is about half a mile, lying along the west side of the Bay of Kirkaldy. It is very flat and sandy, but exceedingly pleasant; most of the towns and villages on the coast are pleasantly situated.—The lands of Abbot's Hall, which belong to Mr Ferguson of Raith, abound in coal of different seams, it is said, some 3, 5, and even 14 feet. Part of the crop-coal only was wrought about 40 years ago.

*Population.*—The ancient extent of the population is not easily traced, but was much less than at present. The return to Dr Webster, about 40 years ago, was only 1348 souls. In 1791, the total population is 2136; males 1061, females 1075. The number of inhabitants in the town is 1660, in the country 476. The annual average of births is 50, of deaths 44, of marriages 22. Under 10 years of age there are 249 males, 239 females; only a few persons are between 80 and 90. There are 6 heritors, 2 of whom reside. Farmers 25, their families about 200; 8 principal manufacturers, besides a few smaller ones; apprentices 50; seamen about 10 or 12; male household-servants 63; female 60; merchants 12. The great bulk of the inhabitants are tradesmen, being wholly employed in manufactures. Families of gentry 3; 1 in the town and 2 in the country. One minister of the Established Church, and a person who preaches to a small Cameronian meeting. The number of the Established Church 1338, of Seceders 798. Within these 20 years, the population of the town is increased between 300 and 400; but the country part of the parish is decreased above 100. The increase of the former is owing to the manufactures, and the decrease of the latter to a coal-work being entirely given up, and 7 or 8 farms being taken into one. Batchelors 27, married men 187, widowers



ers 20, widows 87. At an average, each marriage produces 3 children.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Extensive plantations have been for several years, and are still carrying on by Mr Ferguson of Raith. There being in this parish about 143 acres occupied by plantations, little or none of these grounds are arable, and are so steep that they are fit for nothing else. The number of horses, cows, cattle and young beasts may be about 1250. The acres in the parish are about 3165. In corn 530, in turnip and cabbage 85, in potatoes 84, in wheat 85, in barley 250, in pease 176, in sown grass 164, in common pasturage 1278, for feeding cattle 300, in summer fallow 70. Oats and pease are sown from the beginning of March to the middle of April; barley from the beginning of May to near the end of it; wheat in September and October, and turnip from the middle of July, &c. They reap sometimes in the end of August, and the beginning of September. The parish imports articles of provision. The valued rent of this parish is L. 798 : 9 : 9. The real rent may be about L. 3165. The arable land near the town is about L. 3, 10s. the acre. Best pasture upwards of L. 2, 10s. On the north skirts of the parish, some as low as 5s. the acre. In general, the size of farms is from 200 to near 300 acres. The rent about L. 200. There may be a few smaller. The number of farms is decreasing considerably, owing to their being larger. Except the land immediately by the town, the parish is wholly inclosed, and the farmers are so much convinced of the advantage thereof, that they do not think they would be able to pay their advanced rents, if it were not so. There are 50 ploughs, of which the one half is the old Scotch plough, improved by being made lighter, and the other half the English plough made by Small, or after his construction,



struction. There are also 50 carts in the country part of the parish, and 20 more in the town; 3 carriages, 1 of which is a coach, and the others 2 four-wheeled chaises.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend, except 100 merks in money, being paid in victual, varies with the prices. It is 46 bolls of barley, 34 of meal, and 36 of oats; but taken at the latest valuation, of L. 100 Scots the chaldar, including the manse and glebe, which is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  acres, may be about L. 80. Mr Ferguson of Raith is patron. A new, larger, and more elegant church was built 4 years ago, in the same place where the old stood. The first manse in this parish was built in the 1772, the minister having till then only an allowance of L. 5 for a house.—The salary of the parochial school is about L. 7; perquisites arising from baptisms and proclamations about L. 5; from the session and at the communion L. 2; L. 5 for teaching poor scholars, being the interest of L. 100, mortified about 30 years ago, by a Mr Dundas, who lived at Raith. The number of scholars at an average is about 60. There may be 2 or 3 small private schools in the town.—There are 6 poor on the roll, and several others are supplied according as their need requires. The annual amount of the contributions for their relief, arising from the collections at the church, the interest of money, &c. is about L. 50; and the parish is well able to supply its own poor, were they not oppressed with vagrants from almost every quarter, especially from the North, going to and from the Infirmary at Edinburgh.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—The prices of provisions are near double what they were 30 and 40 years ago. Beef, mutton, veal, lamb, and pork, &c. are  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. and 5 d. the pound, according to the different seasons, all Troy or heavy weight.

Pigs



Pigs 4 s. geese 2 s. 6 d. ducks 8 d. each, chickens 6 d. and 8 d. the pair, butter 9 d. cheese, such as is commonly sold, 3 d. the pound, all heavy weight; wheat and barley at 1 s. Sterling below the Mid-Lothian fiars, &c. Day-labourers get 1 s. carpenters, masons, &c. get 1 s. 6 d. tailors, when they work out, 6 d. and their meat; but they mostly work in their own houses, at so much the piece. The only fuel is coal, price paid on the spot, 6 d. the load, weighing 22 stone. On different coal-hills the weight is different, and so are the prices. Some within half a mile, 2 and 3 miles, &c. Such as are frugal and attentive, seem to live comfortably in their situation, and bring up large families in general. Their children cost them little, and as soon as they can do any thing, are employed in manufactures; their wages are exceeding good, and double of what they were formerly. The wages of male-servants are L. 6 and L. 7, of female L. 2, 10 s. and L. 3 a-year. There are but about 8 livery-servants, and their wages vary from L. 10 to L. 20, L. 30, &c. according to their stations, &c.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In general, the people are of the middle size. The greatest height which any have attained, is about 6 feet 2 inches. They are very much disposed to industry.—In the town are 3 principal manufactures, under the name of Checks and Bed-tikes. These employ between 200 and 300 looms in the parish, and a great number in the parishes around. Two of these have each an extensive bleachfield near by, where they whiten their own yarn. Besides these, are a few who do a little in the same branches. There are besides 5 cotton manufactures of the name of the Spinning Jeanies, the heavy parts of which are driven by a horse-engine. These employ near 200 hands, several of whom are children, &c. Other buildings are presently erecting for the same, &c.—  
The



The roads are tolerably good. There are only 2 small bridges, which separate the parish from the neighbouring one on the west, both in good case, and lately repaired, made and kept by the county. The statute-labour is exacted partly in kind and partly in money.— Though the harvest was late in 1782, and the weather very unfavourable, so that the prices rose much above what they used to be, yet it was not so severely felt in this part of the country as in some others, owing partly to the dryness of the situation, and to a considerable quantity of corn being imported straight from the Baltic into the harbour of Kirkcaldy, &c. The poor had very liberal supplies. Mr Ferguson gave L. 50 to be distributed among them, and the session, at the desire of the heritors, lifted L. 40, and disposed of it to the same purpose, over and above their ordinary distribution.— There are 4 brewers in the town. These keep decent houses, and good company. But there are several that are commonly called Tapsters, because they sell ale to these brewers, that are nuisances to society.— Within these 20 years, above 100 new houses have been built in the town. About the one half of these are on new foundations, and the other on old ones, made much larger and better; and in the country part of the parish are upwards of 20. Some still employ cottagers, and others do not, preferring hired servants to them, and consequently differ in their sentiments concerning the effects.



## NUMBER XXV.

## PARISH OF INCHTURE.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN MILLAR.**Name, Situation, &c.*

THIS parish and that of Rossie were united in 1670, and the church of Rossie is now a ruin. *Inchtüre*, or *Inchtower*, seems to have got its name from standing on a rising ground. It is allowed, that some time ago the river Tay ran on the north side of the Carse of Gowrie, and joined the river Earn at a place called Invergowrie, about 2 miles W. from Dundee. Several towns, situated upon the higher grounds between these rivers, are hence called *Inch this* and *Inch that*, *Inchmartine*, *Inchmichael*, *Megg-inch*, *Inchtüre*, &c. This parish lies in the county of Perth, in the presbytery of Dundee, and Synod of Angus and Mearns, extending from S. to N. about 4 miles, and from E. to W. about 3. It is bounded on the E. by the parish of Longforgan; on the S. by the rivers Tay and Earn, which now run in one channel; on the W. by the parishes of Errol and Kinnaird; and on the N. by the parish of Abernyte, and a part of Longforgan parish.

*Population.*



*Population.*—In the village of Inchtute are 84 families, and about 360 souls. There is a probability that this village and parish will soon become more populous. In the course of these 17 years past, it has increased about 24 families; and as the turnpike-road between Perth and Dundee, which is just now making, goes through this town, Lord Kinnaird, who is sole proprietor of it, intends to enlarge and improve it. There are only other 5 villages in the parish, and in them are about 100 families, and about 640 souls. So that, in the parish, there are in all about 184 families, and 1000 souls; of these, about 250 under 10 years of age. The return to Dr Webster was 893 souls. The number of males and females is nearly equal. Some years ago, this parish was more populous than it is at present; but the decrease has been owing to some lands being converted into pleasure grounds. In some years of late, there have been 18 or 19 marriages; at a medium, these last 16 years, there have been 14 yearly. There have been, in the same space of time, at a medium, 39 baptisms. In the same space of time, there have been, in some years, 20 deaths; but the medium for the last 7 years is 18.

| Years. | Births. | Marriages. | Deaths. |
|--------|---------|------------|---------|
| 1783   | 43      | 17         | 17      |
| 1784   | 38      | 11         | 31      |
| 1785   | 46      | 15         | 16      |
| 1786   | 51      | 19         | 14      |
| 1787   | 33      | 15         | 13      |
| 1788   | 50      | 20         | 20      |
| 1789   | 34      | 14         | 18      |
| 1790   | 48      | 14         | 19      |

The small-pox was very frequent in 1784, and many died. There is still a prejudice against inoculation.

*Heritors,*



*Heritors, Rent, Culture, &c.*—The heritors in this parish are 3 in number, one of whom only resides at present. The valued rent is L. 593, 13 s. Sterling. The real rent may be about L. 6000 Sterling. The number of acres of arable land, 3000. All the ground in this parish is exceeding rich, and well improven, chiefly by lime, which suits best with a clay soil. The farms in general are extensive, scarce one of them less than 100 acres, some of them 200, and one about 300. Farms, of late years, have been let at 40 s. and 45 s. an acre; and 3 years ago, a large farm, consisting of about 300 acres, above 50 s. In general, the rents are paid, part in victual, and part in money. The farmers here are wealthy, and live genteelly. They send only 1 man and 2 horses to a plough. Wages to a good ploughman, are from L. 8 to L. 10 a-year; a day-labourer gets 9 d. or 10 d. a-day, and his meat; in harvest, 1 s. a day, or L. 1, 1 s. for the whole harvest-work; a woman gets 15 s. for harvest. Womens wages are yearly about L. 3. There are but few manufacturers, the farmers choosing rather to let their houses to day-labourers. About 40 or 50 years ago, oxen were much employed in ploughing, but now horses only. The parish is reckoned about 60 ploughs; but at particular seasons, nearly 80 are employed. The farms are generally divided into 6 parts, wheat, barley, beans or pease, oats, clover-grass, and fallow. Ground properly fallowed and limed, often produces 15 bolls of wheat the acre; the average produce of whole farms is 10. Threshing mills are of late a very great improvement. There are five of them in this parish. One goes by water, and will thresh 30 bolls in an hour, and also separates the corn from the chaff. The other mills, which require 3 or 4 horses to drive them, can thresh 25 bolls in an hour. A mill employs 6 or 7 men to feed the mill, as they phrase it, carry off the straw, &c. and



1 to drive the horses. There is at Polgovie, a town in this parish, a pier and harbour for shipping, where a vessel of 60 or 70 tons can get in; there great quantities of victual are shipped, and a great deal of lime and coals is unloaded.

*Stipend, Poor, School, &c.*—The church and manse here are both old. The stipend is near 13 bolls wheat, 46 bolls barley, 36 bolls meal, and 34 bolls oats, and near L. 11 money. By the annexation of the glebe formerly at Rosfie, to the glebe here, it is about 11 acres, including the garden. The King is patron.—The poors fund is above L. 200 Sterling. There are not many poor, and none of them are allowed to travel as beggars.—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 80 Scots; the scholars seldom fewer than 60, and at certain seasons of the year, betwixt 70 and 80. His income, by his salary, session-clerk fee, scholars, and perquisites in the parish, I suppose amounts to between L. 27 and L. 30 a-year. He has a large commodious house.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is not, properly speaking, an inn in the parish. Only one person at present makes malt and ale, and there are 6 more that have licences to sell ale and British spirits. In general, the people here are sober and industrious. Almost the whole houses in this parish, have been built anew within these 16 years past. The farmers houses are elegant, in comparison of what they were of late years, and most of them are covered with blue slate. The lower class of people are likewise much better lodged than they formerly were. In the village called Balledgarno, Lord Kinnaird built houses to accommodate 18 families, each of them having 2 fire apartments, in the course of last summer, all covered with blue slate, and there is not more than the third part of



of his Lordship's plan yet executed. All the remaining old houses are to be pulled down, and a neat large village erected, which, when completed, I suppose will accommodate 60 or more families. The farmers here rather chuse to employ their cottagers, than hired servants.—The ague, which, not more than 30 years ago, was a very frequent disease, is now not more so than in other parts of the country, which is to be attributed to the ground's being greatly drained.

MUN

This parish is situated in the county of Down, the parish of Clontarf, and Tynd of Blane and is very fertile. It extends from N. to S. 4 miles; from W. to E. 2 miles. On the N. it is bounded by the river Tweek; on the S. W. by the parish of Loughbrick and Whitburn; on the W. by the parish of Clontarf; on the N. W. by Clontarf; on the N. E. by Clontarf. The general appearance of the country is flat. On the banks of the Tweek, there are some rocks, but of no great height. The soil on the banks of the Tweek and Whitburn, is deep and fertile, but towards the middle of the parish it is thin, on a strong clay. The air is sometimes moist, but generally dry, and the people are remarkably healthy. They were formerly much afflicted with the ague, but are now much more free from complaint. The Whitburn, a small river, runs through the parish on the N. produces a few salmon, and great plenty, as well as great variety of trout. The parish produces



## NUMBER XXVI.

## PARISH OF HUTTON,

(COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

*By the Rev. Mr ADAM LANDELS.*

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*Situation, Surface, Soil, Rivers, &c.*

THIS parish is situated in the county of Berwick, the presbytery of Chirnside, and Synod of Merse and Tiviotdale. Its form is very irregular. It extends from E. to W. full 4 miles; from N. to S. 3. On the S. it is bounded by the river Tweed; on the S. W. by the parishes of Ladykirk and Whitfome; on the W. by Edrom; on the N. W. by Chirnside; on the N. by Foulden; and on the N. E. by Mordington. The general appearance of the country is flat. On the banks of the Whittader, there are some rocks, but of no great height. The soil on the banks of the Tweed and Whittader, is deep and loamy; but towards the middle of the parish, it is thin, on a strong clay. The air is sometimes moist, but generally dry, and the people remarkably healthy. They were formerly much afflicted with the ague, but are now much more subject to consumptions. The Whittader, a small river that bounds the parish on the N. produces a few salmon, and great plenty, as well as great variety, of trout. The Tweed produces



produces a great quantity of salmon, gillies, and whitling trout, the last of which are carried to London alive, in wells in the Berwick smacks, and weigh generally about 3 lb. Ten boats or cobs are the highest number allowed to be kept on this side the river, in the parish. The salmon are of the greatest value in the months of January and February. One salmon, from the fishing of New-water, in January 1791, not 2 stone weight, sold for L. 3:0:2, at Berwick, for the London market. The rent of the fishing waters is upwards of L. 200 a year, and about 12 men are employed. The tide flows to Norham castle, which is 10 miles from Berwick. A boat of 30 tons can come up the river to New-water Ford, which is 6 miles from Berwick.—There is great plenty of moorstone and freestone on the banks of the Tweed and Whittader, most excellent for building, and of a fine white colour. The haugh-lands on the Tweed and Whittader, are sometimes flooded, when there is any remarkable fall of rain or snow.

*Animals, Agriculture, &c.*—The cattle are of the Tees-water breed, large and handsome; and when properly fed, will weigh upwards of 100 stone English. The sheep are also of a large kind. Wedders are often sold, when 2 years old, for L. 1, 15 s. the head, when shorn; and their fleece is worth 5 s. 6 d. or 6 s. One proprietor has just now sold 50 wedders at L. 105, after they were shorn; their fleece, for the 2 years, worth 12 s. Wool is sold at 15 s. and 16 s. the stone, 24 lb. to the stone. Ewes are sold for breeding at L. 2 a head, and great prices are given for the hire of rams of the Leicestershire breed, for the season. Hog-sheep, before they are shorn, are sold at L. 1, L. 1, 4 s. and L. 1, 7 s. the head, for the Yorkshire markets. There are about 170 horses, besides young ones. About 3000 sheep at the Martinmas, 2000 more of lambs at



at the Whitsunday; and upwards of 450 cattle.—There are about 5200 acres of land in the parish. The one half of it in corn and turnips, the other half in hay, pasture, and wood. About 200 acres of wood. The annual rent of the parish, land, mills, fishings, &c. is L. 4000 Sterling. The rent of the best arable ground is L. 2, 2 s. the acre. Considerable farms are let at L. 1; inferior lands, at 10 s. and 15 s. Many of the farms are of that size, as to let at L. 300 and L. 400 yearly. One reckoned worth L. 500 a-year, was rented, less than 40 years ago, at L. 50 or L. 60 a-year. There are 50 ploughs, all of them the chain plough, drawn by 2 horses. The land in the parish is all inclosed.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster, the number of souls was 751. The present state of population is as follows:—

|                          |   |     |
|--------------------------|---|-----|
| From 10 years and under, | - | 234 |
| From 10 to 20,           | - | 172 |
| From 20 to 30,           | - | 138 |
| From 30 to 40,           | - | 141 |
| From 40 to 50,           | - | 83  |
| From 50 to 60,           | - | 61  |
| From 60 to 70,           | - | 44  |
| From 70 to 80,           | - | 40  |
| From 80 to 90,           | - | 7   |

In all, 920

Of whom are males, 417. Females, 503.

In the village of Paxton, 271. In the village of Hutton, 210. In 1770, there were, according to the register, 30 baptisms; deaths, 12. In 1780, 32 baptisms; deaths, 14. In 1790, 28 baptisms; deaths, 20. The heritors having considerable property, are 8; besides a number of small proprietors.



proprietors. There are about 12 farmers, besides several carters, who occupy small portions of land, and who are employed in driving lime and coal. There are about 20 handicraftsmen, 8 or 10 apprentices.—There is no other kind of emigration but that which takes place at the Whitsunday, when there is a removal of many hinds, herds, and cottagers, into neighbouring parishes; whose places are, at the same time, filled up by others of the same description, who are actuated by an unaccountable desire to change their habitations, though they seldom ameliorate their situations. Nothing but the expectation of better pasture for their cow, can be assigned as a reason; for their gains, as they are called, which are, so many bolls of corn, potatoes planted, and lintseed sowed, &c. are the same every where in this corner of the country.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, is about L. 115 Sterling. The King is patron. The church was rebuilt in 1765, has lately been ceiled, plastered, and flagged, and is now a very handsome country place of worship. The manse is new built, and, for the credit of the heritors, a very good one.—There are only 9 persons on the poors roll; 2 or 3 more receive occasional charity. The weekly collections don't exceed L. 10 a year. The half of which is appropriated to the support of the poor. That, with 3 months cess, amounting on the whole to about L. 25, is equal to all the demands of the poor at present. There is besides the interest of a mortification of L. 100 Scots.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—The price of beef and mutton, is from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. the pound, 16 ounces to the pound; veal, from 4 d. to 6 d.; lamb, 5 d.; pork, which is bought, salted, and sent to London by the coopers at Berwick, generally



nerally at 3 s. 6 d. and 4 s. 2 d. the stone, 14 lb. to the stone; geese, from 2 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 9 d. each; ducks and hens, 10 d. each; rabbits, 1 s. the couple; butter, 8 d. the pound; cheese, 7 s. the stone; wheat, L. 1, 13 s. the Berwick boll; barley, 18 s.; oats, 15 s.; and peas, L. 1, 4 s. All the above articles, 30 years ago, sold at less than half the price. The wages of day-labourers are generally 1 s. a-day in summer, 1 s. 6 d. in hay and corn harvest, 8 d. and 9 d. in winter; carpenters and masons, 1 s. 6 d. The wages of single men servants, L. 6, 10 s. to L. 7 the year; women, L. 3, 3 s. to L. 3, 10 s. The only fuel is coal, brought from Northumberland, between 8 and 9 miles distant, at 2 s. 6 d. and 3 s. the load; the hire, 2 s. 6 d. in summer, and 3 s. in winter.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The style of living among the poor people here, is very different from that in England; and the earnings of the women, added to those of the men, make a more considerable sum than that stated in the account of the poor in England; and hence the industrious and economical among them, bring up their families, when in health, very decently, without any assistance from the parish funds. The people are all of the ordinary size, except the parish schoolmaster, who is computed to be 7 feet 4 inches high; his trunk is very large, his legs long, but not well made; there appears a weakness in them, and in his knee joints, so that he walks badly. He is very unwieldy, looks unhealthy, and is only 25 years of age. He is very gentle in his manners, good humoured, and obliging. He teaches Latin, mathematics, arithmetic, writing, and English, very well; has a very numerous school, above 60 scholars, and gives very general satisfaction.—The people are in general very sober, industrious, and economical. There is a most material change  
to



to the better, both in living and drefs, within thefe 20 years. There is no remembrance of a murder or a fuicide having been committed.—The roads are tolerably good. One, which leads to Berwick from the weft part of the country, is excellent. The crofs roads will foon be good, as the funds are confiderable, there being above L. 80 Sterling collected annually for ftatute-labour. The produce of one toll already in the parifh, and another foon to be erected, will be above L. 300 Sterling a-year.—In the year 1782, meal was fold to the poor people at reduced prices, for which the opulent chearfully contributed.—Mr Philip Redpath, the late minifter, was a man of great worth and learning, and well known for his tranflation of Boethius.



## NUMBER XXVII.

## PARISH OF KILSPINDIE,

## (COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By the Rev. Mr ANTHONY DOW.**Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, Air, &c.*

THERE were originally two parishes, Rait and Kilspring, and the walls of the church of Rait are still standing. I have not been able to learn, at what time the two were united; only this much I have been able to trace, that it must have been prior to 1634. *Kil* is Gaelic, and always signifies a burying place or tomb. When a saint was buried, the place was generally called by his name, with the syllable *Kil* prefixed. The parish is situated in the county of Perth, in the presbytery of Perth, and Synod of Perth and Stirling, about mid-way between the two towns of Perth and Dundee, the road between these two places running through the south side of the parish for 3 miles. Its form is oblong; in length from S. E. to N. W. about 5 miles; in breadth from S. W. to N. E. about 3½. The parish is bounded on the S. E. by Errol, on the S. W. by Kinfauns, on the N. W. and N. by St Martin's and Collace, and on the E. by Kinnaird. Though the church and manse are situated in the Carse of Gowrie, yet a very small



small proportion only of the parish lies in the Carse. It mostly extends across the hills to that part of Strathmore, which goes by the name of Stormount. The hills are generally barren; in many places the surface is covered with a short heath, wet, and full of those whiteish or gray whinstones, which indicate a poor, unkindly bleak soil. The bottom is a very bad sort of clay, commonly called by the farmers here Mortar or Till. But though in general the summits of the hills are barren and heathy, there are many pleasant little spots in hollows and glens, where the soil is good and fruitful in a high degree. All those parts of the hills which slope towards the Carse, are well cultivated, and to the very summit; producing crops of every kind that is to be found in the low country, and nearly of equal quality; flax, potatoes and turnip, in much greater perfection. That part of the parish which lies in the hollow of the Carse, is generally very wet, but of a deep rich soil, a mixture of clay and moss, producing in good seasons, and when well managed, very luxuriant crops. The air is tolerably dry and healthy in general. In some of the lowest parts, it is rather moist and damp, but among the hills very cold and penetrating. In the hollow grounds, all through this Carse, the ague was formerly a very prevalent distemper, but is now hardly known, owing, no doubt, in some measure, to the draining of the grounds. Rheumatism is the most common complaint.

*Population, &c.*—I have reason to believe the numbers were formerly much greater than now. The return to Dr Webster was 828. No farther back than 30 years, it is known to many of the inhabitants, that in one district there were between 20 and 30 families more than are now upon it. Instead of being divided into small spots, pendicles, or farms of a few acres, it is at present in the hands  
of



of one or two farmers. On one or two more farms, the number of cottagers has also been diminished. The number of souls I found in August 1789 to be 718. Males 340, females 378. In one village are 170, and in another 60 souls.

|                                                    |   |   |   |    |
|----------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|----|
| Average of births for 5 years, from December 1735, |   |   |   |    |
| to December 1740, is                               | - | - | - | 35 |
| 1745,                                              | - | - | - | 32 |
| 1750,                                              | - | - | - | 34 |
| 1755,                                              | - | - | - | 31 |
| 1760,                                              | - | - | - | 23 |
| 1765,                                              | - | - | - | 25 |
| 1770,                                              | - | - | - | 22 |
| 1775,                                              | - | - | - | 18 |
| 1780,                                              | - | - | - | 15 |
| 1785,                                              | - | - | - | 16 |
| to December 1790,                                  | - | - | - | 19 |

Average of deaths for 7 years, from December 1783 to December 1790, is 17 or 18. Average of marriages, from 1770 to 1780, is 6. From 1780 to 1790, 8. Taking the average of births for the last 7 years, from December 1783 to December 1790, the number is exactly the same as for the last 5 years, 19, and of burials, as above, 17 or 18. The reason why the average of deaths goes no farther back than to 1783, is because there has been no register of these kept, previous to the act in 1783, appointing a tax of 3 d. to be levied on each burial, &c. The births mentioned are not exactly those within the parish; for all the children that have been baptised here, whether born in it or not, have their names inrolled in the register here; so also it is with regard to burials. With respect to marriages, they are all recorded, whether only one or both parties have been within the parish. Hence all those marriages, where the parties have been proclaimed in two different parishes, are



are twice registered. There are 68 souls under 10 years of age, only 1 above 90. There are 7 heritors, none of whom reside; 15 farmers, employing each 2 ploughs, or more; 7 or 8 smaller farmers, who have only 1 plough; 45 weavers, all employed in working sale linen, commonly coarse, what is called Osnaburghs; they all work for some manufacturer, either in Perth or Dundee, and do little on their own risk; 4 blacksmiths, with 4 apprentices; 3 shoemakers, only 1 apprentice; 4 house and cart wrights, with 2 apprentices; 4 tailors; 6 meal-millers, at as many different mills; 2 masons; 3 gardeners, only 1 of whom is employed in a gentleman's garden; 2 distilleries, employing 5 men; not above 8 or 10 household servants; 111 labouring servants, male and female. Threshing mills having become already wonderfully common through this country, fewer cottagers are employed in the barns, threshing, &c.; 14 families are Seceders (Burghers and Antiburghers); 2 or 3 Episcopalian Nonjurants, who all now attend in the Established Church, since the death of their clergyman; only 1 Roman Catholic; 65 bachelors, taking all the unmarried men above 21 years of age; 115 married or widowers. Each marriage produces 3 children alive, at an average; but if all those dead were to be included, the average would amount to 4. Only 2 uninhabited houses before Martinmas last; 149 inhabited houses, not quite 5 to each.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Between 2000 and 3000 acres are supposed to be employed in raising corn, &c. and farms are from 4, 5 and 6 ploughs, to little pendicles of 2 acres; which last are ploughed, &c. by the great farmers, the subtenants being bound for harvest work in return. From the beginning of February to April, pease and beans are sown; from the end of April to the end of May, barley; wheat  
in



in the end of September, October, and beginning of November. It is generally observed of the Carse farmers, that they continue sowing wheat as long as the season will allow; but I have never seen any spring-wheat here. This last autumn there has been more wheat sown in this Carse, than ever was known in one season in the memory of man. Autumn 1789 was remarkably wet and rainy, and the farmers could not in many places catch a single day to sow even their fallowed ground. They depend upon their wheat crop for paying the landlord, and they seem determined to make up in this, what they fell short in last season. The wheat harvest generally begins the end of August, and continues all September; oats, barley and pease in September and October; and beans in October, or beginning of November frequently. Carse ground lets from L. 1, 15 s. to L. 2, 15 s. the acre; hill ground from 15 s. to L. 1, 15 s. The size of farms is very different, from 40 to 250 acres, and their number is greatly diminished. Ploughs are between 60 and 70, drawn by 2 horses, all over the low grounds; but through the hills, by 2 horses and 2 oxen, except on 3 farms, where the 2 horse-plough is used. The plough which is now universally used here, is much after the make of Small's. On one or two of what are called the Brae-farms, that is, the farms on the slope of the hills, where the ground hangs, they often yoke 3 horses a-breast. The middle horse, the leading one, being before the 2 side-horses, by the length of the head and neck, which makes a very strong plough, but kneads the ground very much for the 6 last ploughed furrows of a ridge. The grounds are generally uninclosed; there are no stones to build fences; and hedges nestle such a number of small birds, that they are generally disliked. No body sends out cattle without a man or a boy to attend them. The people seem so much accustomed to open grounds, that they seldom think  
of



of inclosures. However, the farmers are all convinced of the great utility of inclosures, and would universally prefer an inclosed and subdivided farm, to one wholly open.

*Stipend and Poor.*—The average value of the living here is about L. 77 Sterling. The glebe lies detached in several different places, and some part of it is a rugged bank; but there are 6 or 7 acres of it of a tolerably good soil, that might give L. 1, 15 s. or L. 2 the acre.—There are only 2 old men, without wife or children, who are wholly supported by the parish, though 9 other poor families receive occasional relief, for which the collections at the church have hitherto been sufficient.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—Beef generally sells at 4 d. the pound, veal 5 d. mutton 3 d. fowls 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d. butter 9 d. wheat L. 1, 1 s. barley 14 s. oat-meal 14 s. the boll. Day's wages are 1 s. generally; but 1 s. 3 d. and 1 s. 6 d. in harvest, without diet. When they receive their diet, the wages are from 8 d. to 1 s. Fuel is whins, broom, and coals from the frith of Forth, at the rate of 3 s. 9 d. or 4 s. the boll, weighing 52 Dutch stones, besides carriage from the harbour. Servants wages in this country have risen to a most alarming height. The men from L. 7 to L. 15, 15 s. a-year, with 2 pecks of meal a-week, and 9 d. a-week for milk or beer; women from L. 2 to L. 3, with their victuals. The men-servants, with all their enormous fees, are disobliging, perverse and obstinate, refusing to work more than 6 hours in the forenoon, and 4 in the afternoon. They have no idea of submitting to any little economical employment at a winter fire-side. Bid them mend a corn-sack, and they will fly in your face.



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The roads are at present very bad and narrow. They have never been sufficiently made; but now worse than ever, as the new turnpike-road, in a very different direction, engages the whole attention of the gentlemen. Till lately, the statute-labour was all exacted in kind, but now is generally commuted; no turnpikes as yet, though we expect enough of them soon. Of late, there has been in this, as in some other counties, a sort of outcry against turnpikes, though I believe the most sensible and considerate are ready enough to agree, they may turn out much to the advantage of the country in general, and to the interest of the farmers in particular.—The vulgar in most part of this country, and particularly here, have an utter dislike to all regular physicians and surgeons, though in general, their faith in drugs, quack medicines, and old wives nostrums, is most implicit. In my attendance upon the sick, my first question has generally been, when I found the disorder dangerous, whether a physician had been called; and though I have always advised it, I do not remember that in any instance I have succeeded.—Common people in the Carse are in general rather tall, strong and clumsy in person; dull, obstinate, rude and unmannerly; fond of dress to an extreme; live well. The better sort of farmers, luxurious and expensive in their mode of living, without the least claim to neatness or elegance.—The numbers of wild geese, that come down in flocks from the high grounds, about the end of harvest, are very remarkable. More than 1000 have been seen in one field. A few straggling geese have been killed in the hills.—There is a hill of gravel, a little to the S. E. of the village of Rait, upon the top of which, there are evident marks of some old fort or entrenchment. It is much impaired, and on one side wholly ruined, by the encroachments of a small stream that runs at the bottom of it. The common people have no tradition with regard to it.

NUM-



NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF STRICKATHROW,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT HANNAH.

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*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, Rivers, &c.*

THIS district is composed of two parishes, Strickathrow and Dunlappie, united in 1618. The name, *Strickathrow*, according to some, is a Celtic compound, signifying the 'strath or valley where the King fought.' This parish lies in the county of Forfar, presbytery of Brechin, and Synod of Angus and Mearns, and is bounded by the parishes of Dun, Brechin, Menmuir, Lethnot, Edzell, Fettercairn, Marykirk, and Logie. It is about 7 miles in length, and 2 in breadth, lying S. E. and N. W.; is low in the middle, but rises to each extremity, and comprehends the whole breadth of Strathmore in this place. From the manse, which is situated in the centre of the parish, the prospect is every way extensive, particularly towards the east, extending in that direction upwards of 20 miles. The parish is not much inclosed, but the face of the country is uncommonly pleasant. The soil is various; on the S. it is clay, pretty deep; in the middle, black earth, sharp, but not deep, with a channel bottom; on the N. it is



partly clay, and partly loam, and the hills on either side are covered with heath. The air is generally dry, and wholesome; though there are in several places, marshes and waste grounds. The parish is remarkably well watered. A large rivulet, called the Crook, enters it on the W.; on the N. it is bounded by a considerably larger stream, called the West-water, which, about half a mile from the church, joins one still larger, called the East-water; and these soon joining the Crook, they form altogether the river Northesk. These waters are well supplied with trout, and in the Northesk there is a considerable salmon-fishing.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The productions of the parish are principally oats and bear, (commonly called Chester), with some barley and wheat. Of this last very little is raised, partly owing to the lightness of the soil, and partly to an opinion that two crops of other grain are more profitable. The return is various, according to the quality of the soil, and the state of improvements, though it generally is from 6 to 10, and may be estimated, at an average, 7 after 1. In 1784, a field, containing  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres, yielded upwards of 90 bolls meal; it was indeed the first crop after lime, and that year the crop was good every where. Flax, for which the soil seems to be generally adapted, is raised to a considerable extent, and is usually the second crop after ley. Eight pecks of seed are sown on each acre, and the return is 32 stones dressed lint, but this depends on the state of the ground. An acre of lint, fold on the foot, brings from L. 10 to L. 14. The flax, which the farmer raises and spins in his own family, brings him about L. 1, 2 s. the stone; when he gives it out to be spun, he pays at the rate of 1 s. 1 d. the spindle. A farmer of this parish has attempted to raise white clover seed, and for 2 years past  
has



has furnished the country with feed, reckoned superior in quality, and better adapted to the climate than what is imported. The common mode of farming here, is half grafs and half crop, with a field of peas or turnips, but there are many exceptions. The rotation is, 1. oats; 2. bear or barley; 3. oats; 4. a green crop; 5. bear or barley, along with 12 pounds red, and 4 pounds white clover feed, and half a boll of rye-grafs seed the acre. As soon as harvest is got in, the ground is fallowed or ribbed; and March is generally well advanced, before any feed is sown, but this depends on the season. All husbandry work that requires draught, is performed with horses, and the ordinary sort of plough is used. Horses, cows, sheep, swine, &c. are generally of a middle size, but the breed of horses and cows is sensibly improving. Black cattle, of a year old, will bring from L. 2 to L. 3 each; this article, and grain, form the two principal commodities of the parish, and for these there is generally a ready market, the town of Brechin being at the distance of 3 miles, and Montrose 7 miles from this parish. New leased farms pay at the rate of L. 1, 1 s. the acre of arable land, but this is reckoned dear, the old leases being considerably lower. Tradesmen and others who choose a small piece of ground for their convenience, pay from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. an acre. The rent of land has advanced very considerably since 1751; in that year a farm was rented at 12 bolls of meal, 12 bolls of oats, and L. 4 : 13 : 6 in money, making altogether somewhat less than L. 20; now the same farm is divided into 2, one of which pays L. 86, and the other L. 44 a-year. The valued rent is L. 2614 : 16 : 11 Scots. The real rent cannot easily be ascertained.

*Minerals, Fuel, &c.*—In the S. E. part of the parish is a large bed of limestone, which has been wrought for several



veral years, and sells at the rate of 1 s. 10 d. the boll. The coal with which the lime is burnt, is imported at Montrose from the frith of Forth; the usual price of that necessary article is no less than 8 s. 6 d. the boll, or 72 stone, for Scotch coal, and 1 s. 6 d. the barrel for English coal. This parish producing scarcely any peats, the fuel chiefly used is turf and broom.—Stone abounds here, but it is of a reddish colour, and either very soft, or so hard as to resist the chissel.—There are 2 mineral springs, impregnated with steel, but too weak to produce any effect.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—In 1751, seed-oats fold at 13 s. 4 d. and meal at 12 s. 4 d. the boll, butter at 4 d. the pound, eggs 2 d. the dozen, an ox at L. 2. The wages of men servants were L. 1 : 13 : 4, and of women servants, L. 1 a-year, and a day-labourer got 2 d. a-day and victuals. In 1790, seed-oats and meal were sold, the former at 15 s. and the latter at 13 s. 4 d. barley at 14 s. and bear at 12 s. the boll, butter at 7 d. a-pound, eggs at 4 d. a dozen, an ox at L. 6. The wages of men servants have advanced to L. 7, and of women servants to L. 3 a-year, and a day-labourer now has 9 d. and victuals. A girl that sits at her wheel will earn  $6\frac{1}{2}$  d. a-day, at the rate of 1 s. 1 d. the spindle.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's returns, about the 1750, the numbers were 529. In 1790, they were 672; 269 males, and 403 females. The causes of this increase are said to be improvements in agriculture, and the extension of trade. By the register for 10 years preceding 1790, the births were 143, the burials 120, and the marriages 56. But there is reason to think that the births and marriages are not so fully inserted as the burials, many choosin'g rather to forego the advantage of having their marriages



riages and the births of their children registered, than pay the tax; whereas, in the case of burials, the mortcloth is always employed, for the hire of which the clerk must account to the session. The number of children produced from each marriage, at an average, is between 4 and 5. In 1790, the number of deaths was considerably greater than usual, occasioned by the ravages of a nervous fever, and which raged most in marshy places. There are in the parish, 8 heritors, 3 of whom reside; 27 farmers, and 16 families of tradesmen.

*Stipend, Church, Poor, &c.*—The stipend is L. 322, 17 s. 4 d. Scots, including L. 30 for communion elements, 13 bolls of oats,  $23\frac{3}{4}$  bolls of meal, and  $23\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of bear, the whole not exceeding, at an average, L. 65 Sterling a-year. Of the above, there is a part paid out of the neighbouring parish of Brechin. The manse was built in 1748; and, as this district is composed of two united parishes, the minister has two glebes, one of 5, and the other of 3 acres, though, as the latter lies at the distance of 2 miles from the manse, it is of little value. The church is little better than a heap of ruins, and has all the marks of great antiquity. In Popish and Episcopal times, it was the church of the Chantor of the Cathedral of Brechin. In the churchyard are 3 graves, which, according to tradition, are the burial places of 3 Danish Generals.—Besides families who receive occasional supplies, there are 10 poor on the roll; one of these is a lunatic, and for some years cost the parish L. 10, but the expence is now reduced to L. 7 a-year; the others are maintained in their own houses. The funds arise from the weekly collections, which, on an average, are 4 s. 7 d. the profits of the mortcloth, and the interest of L. 187 capital stock, amounting altogether to about L. 22 a-year.

*Roads.*



*Roads.*—The great roads from Brechin to Aberdeen, and from Brechin to Glenesk, pass through this parish, and are in tolerable repair; but the road from hence to Montrose, and the private roads, are a disgrace to the country. In 1789, an act of Parliament was obtained to repair the roads in this county, by which the statute-labour is converted into money, at the rate of L. 1, 4 s. for every L. 100 Scots of valued rent. The sense of the parishioners of Strickathrow, with respect to this act, is, that commutation of labour into money is an advantage both to them and to the roads, provided the sum is moderate; but in the present instance it is deemed too high.

*Antiquities, and Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is a place in the parish called Blackdikes, which is thought to be a corruption of Battle-dikes. This conjecture is strengthened by there being the remains of a camp of an oblong figure, 2 sides of which are still visible, lying in the neighbourhood, in the parish of Brechin. N. W. from this encampment, at the distance of about 3 miles, are 2 hills, forming a part of the Grampian Mountains, called Caterthun, or 'the East and West Cater,' the one surrounded with an immense assemblage of stones, the other with an earthen rampart, both being in a favourable situation for a camp. It is very strongly conjectured that this is the place mentioned by Tacitus, where the engagement between Agricola and Galgacus, General of the Caledonians, happened. Under this head, it may be mentioned that, according to some writers, the church-yard of Strickathrow was the scene of the abject surrender of the Crown of Scotland, by John Baliol, to King Edward I. in 1296.—Nature has denied coal to this parish, and that want is more sensibly felt by a tax of 2 s. the boll upon importation.

Coal,



Coal, however, is reckoned the cheapest fuel to be procured, peats being very dear.—The grain produced here is of an inferior quality, and sells lower than what is raised in the more southerly part of the county. Short leases may also be ranked under this head, though they are not peculiar to this parish.

NUM



## NUMBER XXIX.

## PARISH OF JOHNSTON,

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM SIBBALD.*

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*Name, Situation, Surface, Soil and Climate.*

THE most general and probable account is, that the parish was so called, from its having been the immemorial residence and property of people of that name. Johnstons have been the principal, and almost sole proprietors, and long ago were the only inhabitants of the parish. It is situated in that part of Dumfries-shire, known by the name of Annandale, and belongs to the presbytery of Lochmaben, and Synod of Dumfries. Its length is 4 miles, and breadth 3, except towards the N. W. from the church, where it extends to the distance of 5, and in one place 6 miles. On the N. it is bounded by Kirkpatrick-Juxta, on the E. by Wamphray and Applegarth, on the S. by Lochmaben, and on the W. by Kirkmichael and Closeburn. The appearance of the country is flat, with a gradual ascent towards the west. Owing to its flatness, this, and a considerable tract of neighbouring country, running from S. to N. has got the name of *Dale*; and either because the river Annan runs along it, or because the town of Annan is at



one end of it, it has been called *Annandale*. The soil is chiefly of three kinds. The higher lands are generally deep moss or clay, and on the banks of Annan the land is light and sandy. Great part, or rather most of it, is rich and good, though till of late much neglected, and needs only culture to make it produce the most luxuriant crops. Rains are mostly from the south, and in great quantity, yet the air is not unhealthy to the natives, though delicate strangers complain of it, and indeed generally suffer much from it upon their first settling here. Notwithstanding the great rains and frequent fogs, the ague seldom appears. We have sometimes putrid fevers, owing perhaps in some measure to the carrion on which our neighbours in the mountains chiefly subsist: For when the shepherds meet with a dead sheep, if it will but carry home, it is generally used for food; and from habit, they prefer it to sound and wholesome mutton. Consumptions are likewise frequent; but the most common ailments are rheumatisms and nervous complaints, especially in the decline of life.

*River Annan.*—In the river Annan, which bounds us on the east, there is abundance of yellow and sea trout, common and spotted eels\*, roches, parrs, and salmon from 30 to 40 pound weight. When large quantities of snow upon the neighbouring hills happen to be suddenly thawed, the Annan sometimes overflows its banks, and does considerable damage. When a melting of the snow, and heavy fall of rain come together, they generally produce an inundation of this sort, which is frequently much increased by a strong south wind, which blowing in opposition to the river, dams up its waters. It seldom overflows from rain alone. The most remarkable instances of the swelling of

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\* These spotted eels are here called Rampar Eels. It is said they will attack men, or even black cattle, when in the water.



the Annan ever remembered here, were in August 1782, August, September and October 1790.

*Population, &c.*—From what can be learned, this part of Annandale was once more populous than at present. The decrease is owing to several farms being united, and good arable land turned solely into pasture, on the largest estate of the parish. Of late, however, the farms there have been divided and subdivided, and the good effects of this judicious plan are beginning to appear. Land which from neglect, rather than any deficiency of soil or climate, was covered with heath, now produces most plentiful crops. The subdivision of farms has enlarged the number of families, and the cultivation of the land now going briskly on, has increased the number of inhabitants at large. The return to Dr Webster, about 40 years ago, was 494. The number of inhabitants at present is 565; males 293, females 272; under 10 years of age, 140; from 10 to 20, 86; from 20 to 50, 246; from 50 to 70, 79; from 70 to 100, 14. The oldest person is a woman, aged 96; the rest are all below 90. Indeed, there are only other 2 who exceed 80. There are 38 farmers, 5 weavers, 2 shoemakers, 2 blacksmiths, 4 tailors, 3 wrights, 1 miller, 5 masons, 7 apprentices, 5 female household servants. The farmers, at an average, have a male and female servant each, besides a boy or a girl for taking care of their cattle. One student of medicine. Only one foreigner, native of Jamaica. One born in England. The heritors are 4 in number, 2 of whom are what are called portioners, having a small property. One of these portioners is the only residing heritor. The Earl of Hopetoun's residence here is always short. The inhabitants are all of the Established Church, except 1 Cameronian, 10 Antiburghers, and 12 Relief Seceders,



ceders. Houses are 122, all inhabited; at full 4<sub>1</sub> persons to each.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The field productions are chiefly oats, some rye, a little bear and barley, and here and there a few ridges of peas. No wheat nor beans; nor have turnips, till of late, been sown in the fields, though now becoming common. Every farmer raises potatoes for the use of his family; generally some likewise for feeding swine and black cattle, but chiefly the former. A few years ago there were no fruit-trees in the parish, nor are there yet any deserving the name. A very fine young orchard is now planted at Raehills, at the manse, and some other places. Forest-trees are nearly as scarce; but from the names of many places, such as Lochwood, Woodend, &c. where there is now very little wood, it is evident, that this, like most parts of Scotland, once abounded in trees. Besides former plantations, 150 acres were planted last winter by the Earl of Hopetoun. Sheep, which were once so plenty, are now reduced to about 1500, and succeeded by horses and black cattle. The sheep are mostly still the common black faced Scotch sheep. Indeed the only exceptions are those at Raehills, part of which are of Spanish breed, and the rest a cross breed, known in this country by the name of Long Sheep. Cows and horses are rather more numerous than formerly, there being 295 cows, and 111 horses, the latter almost solely for husbandry, with a few young ones, partly for sale, and partly to keep up the old stock. Besides the milk-cows already mentioned, there may, at an average, be 450 black cattle, part fattening, but most only rearing. There is a strong prejudice prevails all over this country against horned cattle. They bring at least 10s. a-head less than those without horns, of the same weight and quality, probably because the age of horned cattle cannot



not be misrepresented; whereas a dealer can assert those without horns to be of any age that best suits his purpose. There are 6 labouring oxen at Raehills. During the 5 last years, there have been annually ploughed, at an average, 850 acres, most of which is employed in raising oats. Perhaps an 8th or 9th part is sown with bear, barley, rye, peas, &c. Next to oats, bear is the staple grain here. Rye holds the next place. Our peas and flax take but little room. The land on which they sow bear, barley and rye is generally the potato and turnip ground of the preceding year. The sowing of grass is a new piece of husbandry with us, and is still in its infancy. There were 40 acres sown with artificial grasses last season. As the land is only beginning to be improved, the pastures are but poor, and must be extensive; they comprehend all the remanent parts of the parish, excepting what is taken up by roads and plantations. The common, which was very considerable, was divided not long ago. In ordinary seasons, the farmers are employed from the middle of March to the middle of April, in sowing oats; in the end of April they plant potatoes. Such as sow barley and grass-seeds, do it early in May, though sometimes the grasses are sown later. Towards the middle of July, they begin to cut their rye-grass and clover. Meadow hay is about a month later in ripening. September is usually the harvest month for barley and oats; but in some untoward seasons, there is often a good deal to cut down at the commencement of October. The whole rental is said to be at present about L. 1300; but owing to the improvements now going on, it must soon be more than double. Best arable and pasture land is said to rent from 8s. to 12s. the acre; inferior, from 3s. to 6s. Average size of farms is 160 acres, and their number is much increased these last 10 years. Most of our farmers have 2 ploughs a-piece; one strong and heavy, for breaking ley, heath,



heath, &c. and another lighter, for ploughing stubble, fallowing, &c. They are all the common Scotch plough, excepting 2 or 3 belonging to Lord Hopetoun, with pot-metal glebe boards. These can never be common here, as our land is stony and uneven. In general, the farmers have 2 carts each. At Raehills (so called from its having been long ago kept as a deer park by the family of Annandale) there are a few deer, between 20 and 30, lately placed there by the Earl of Hopetoun. About as many goats are to be seen in an adjoining pasture. A great part of the parish has been inclosed since the present Earl came to the management, and it is his Lordship's intention soon to inclose most of the remainder. The people are not very fond of inclosures, as they think it troublesome to keep their cattle off the young hedges, and complain that these inclosures oblige them to take round about roads, every time they stir from home. But they will soon be universally sensible of the advantages to be derived from them. The more considerate are so already.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The value of the living may be about L. 80 Sterling a-year, manse and glebe included. The patron is the Marquis of Annandale; but the Earl of Hopetoun, as curator at law, presents in his name. The church was built in 1733, the manse in 1735, and has much need of being rebuilt.—We have two public schools, one in the east, and the other towards the west end of the parish. The masters in both are very well qualified to teach the branches of education they profess, viz. writing, reading, arithmetic and book-keeping. The scholars in each are about 30 in winter, and 20 in summer. Their salaries are different, the one having 200 merks, the other 150. Their fees for reading, 1 s. a quarter, (and although they write, pay no more), arithmetic 1 s. 6 d. for a course of book-keeping



10 s. 6 d. The want of a grammar-school for classical education is sensibly felt.—None of our poor go a-begging, and none, so far as I can trace, have died for want. There are at present on the roll 18 persons. The interest of mortified sums for their relief amount yearly to L. 12 0 0 Our weekly collection, &c. amount at an ave-

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| rage, to | - | - | 9     | 0 | 0 |
|          |   |   | <hr/> |   |   |

Making in all for the relief of the poor, L. 21 0 0

When a person on the poor's list dies, the session consider themselves as entitled, in name of the surviving poor, to whatever furniture, clothes or effects the deceased may have left, although we do not require them on admission to sign any deed to that purpose. What they leave is seldom claimed by the session, but being for the most part of little value, is commonly given to such of their indigent relations or neighbours as were kind and attentive to them in their last illness. Besides the resources already mentioned, it may be proper to state, that few years pass without most generous and well judged presents to our poor from the Hopetoun family. Nor is this the only parish which experiences their bounty. Wherever they have property, and in many parishes where they have none, the poor are the objects of their frequent beneficence.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—There is no market for butcher-meat in the parish. The ordinary way of being provided in it is, for a family, or different families united, to buy a whole bullock, or sheep, or sow, &c. Of the two market-towns nearest us, the one is 6, and the other 10 miles off. When we do send to either of these, we generally pay for beef and mutton 6 d. the pound, English weight; lamb is commonly a little dearer. The following articles can be had in the parish: geese at 3 s. each, ducks 6 d. hens 6 d. sometimes



sometimes 8 d. butter at times 8 d. oftener 9 d. Scotch weight, or 24 oz. the pound, skimmed milk-cheese 3 d. the pound, sweet milk ditto 6 d. Scotch weight. Barley and oats always fluctuating; average price of the former, L. 2, 10 s. ditto of the latter, L. 2, 2 s. the Moffat boll.—The ordinary hire of a day-labourer is 6 d. in the short days, and 8 d. when the days are long, with their meat, or 10 d. and 1 s. without victuals; tailors 8 d. though till of late only 6 d. with victuals; carpenters and masons 1 s. a-day, with meat, or 1 s. 6 d. without it. This so long as there are 12 hours of day-light; when less, their wages are reduced 2 d. a-day. For peat and hay-making, men 8 d. women 4 d. with their meat.—The fuel commonly made use of is peat and turf; these are to be had in great abundance in the parish. The average expence of a labourer, who has a family, is about L. 15 a-year. House-rent is from 12 s. to L. 1. His wages, and other advantages, enable him, with œconomy, to bring up in a very decent manner a family of 5, 6, or even more children; for besides what he earns, his wife has it often in her power to pay their house-rent, by working occasionally to the farmer from whom they rent it. The farmer too considers it as his own interest, to allow them as much ground for potatoes, as their ashes, &c. can manure, to lead out their ashes, and to plant, and in harvest to raise their potatoes with his own plough. A part of his agreement with them likewise is to bring home their peats; for this he is recompensed by occasional labour, which seldom prevents the cottager from earning his day's hire.—Another circumstance in favour of such families is, their being soon relieved from the burden of supporting their children; for although we have no manufactures for the employment of very young ones, yet so soon as they reach 7 or 8 years, they can all be employed, at least during summer and harvest, in tending cattle; for this  
they



they receive board and lodging, and an hire proportioned to their age, and the number of cattle they have to attend, generally 12 s. or 14 s. The average hire for ploughmen is from L. 7, to L. 7, 10 s. a-year; for an half grown lad, to drive the plough, thresh, &c. L. 5; female servants for husbandry, L. 3, or L. 3, 10 s. There are but very few servants kept solely for domestic purposes.

*Ruin.*—The only ruin worthy of notice is the castle of Lochwood, which was the residence of the family of Anandale. It is situated in the north end of the parish, commands a very extensive prospect, especially towards the south, and is said to have been built in the 14th century. It must formerly have been a place of great strength, having had prodigiously thick walls, and being surrounded by unpassable bogs and marshes. It was this circumstance made King James VI. say, that ‘the man who built Lochwood, though outwardly honest, must have been a knave in his heart.’

*Eminent Men.*—This parish has the honour of having given birth to Dr Rogerson, first physician to the Empress of Russia. His father was one of the Marquis’s tenants, and rented one half of the farm of Lochbrew, in the south end of the parish, where the Doctor was born. The other half was at the same time rented by William Halliday, another farmer, whose son, Dr Matthew Halliday, is likewise one of her Imperial Majesty’s physicians.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The inhabitants are rather above the middle size; but I never heard of any of them exceeding six feet two inches. Their dress, diet, and lodging, are much amended within these twenty, or even ten years. They seldom live beyond their income.

Sympathy



Sympathy is a striking feature in their character. Before the Union, and for some time after it, the inhabitants of Annandale, like other Borderers, were riotous and quarrelsome. Now they are a sober, harmless people, and by the encouragement given them, have of late become industrious. Emigration was frequent till within these 9 years; but there is now employment found both for the parishioners and for strangers. Only 2 have enlisted in the army since the 1785. None have entered into the navy, nor gone to sea. They are beginning to taste the sweets of industry and active virtue, and it seems hardly possible to devise a better plan for ameliorating their situation, than that which Lord Hopetoun is carrying on. Not very long ago this parish could not supply itself with provisions; at present there is abundance for home consumption, and a little for exportation. Forty-three new houses have been built within the last 10 years.—Most of the landed property in this country is entailed, and therefore never in the market.—The great road through this parish from Moffat to Dumfries, is in good repair. Statute-labour is commuted. No turnpikes in the parish. St Ann's bridge over Kinnel water, 13 miles from Dumfries, and 8 from Moffat, was built by the present Earl of Hopetoun, in 1782.—One of the chief disadvantages is the great distance from coal; the nearest fuel of this sort is at Sanquhar, at least 30 miles off, and the road very bad. Douglas coal is farther off; but as the road to it is better than that to Sanquhar, it is found easier both for men and horses to bring coal from thence. There is plenty of moss in the parish; but every thing considered, peats are always got at a great expence, and in wet seasons can hardly either be sufficiently dried or brought home. Lime is 18 miles distant.—There are no professed inns or ale-houses; but there are 4 houses in different quarters, where ale and spirits can be bought by retail. Few



and small as these are, I believe they rather do harm than service.—About 10 years ago, a woman cut her throat.—Cottagers are never employed in agriculture, but on particular occasions, when more hands are required than the farmers can afford to keep through the year. No eagles have ever been seen in this parish, though in the Highlands, in the near neighbourhood, they are sometimes to be met with. We have partridges in great abundance; in the west end of the parish grouse are common; the black-cock too, has there sometimes been seen. We are likely to have more of these some years hence; for, according to naturalists, corn and young plantations always attract them. Herons are to be seen through the whole year on the banks of the Annan. Besides the cuckoo and swallow, we have an annual visit from the bullfinch, who makes great havock of gooseberries and currants in May. The wood-lark and fieldfare are very common.

NUM.



NUMBER XXX.

P A R I S H O F C R I E C H,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By MICHAEL GREENLAW, D. D.

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*Name and Situation.*

THE name is said to express something indelicate to be explained. The parish lies in the presbytery of Cupar, and Synod of Fife, about 6 miles west of the east end of the Ochil Hills, which run from the mouth of the Tay west, to within a mile of Stirling. It is from S. to N. about 3 miles, and from E. to W. about 2. It is bounded on the E. by Balmerino and Kilmeny, on the N. by Flisk, on the W. by Abdie and Dunbog, and on the S. by Monimail and Moonzie.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Farming in this parish and neighbourhood is advancing fast in improvement, considering our thin sharp soil. For many years past, there was only rough bear, and no barley. But barley now is the staple grain. It is said that Fife exports about 30,000 bolls of it yearly, besides what it consumes. And it is necessary to import 6000 bolls of oats or meal a-year. The farmers find it more profitable to raise barley than oats. For 1 boll of wheat



wheat sown in this parish about 30, or even 20 years ago, there are, at a moderate computation, 10 sown now. Formerly too, it was full of blacks, and needed to be washed before it was sent to the mill; now, by the attention paid to the seed, and the preparing of the ground, good wheat is produced from 8 to 12 bolls, after 1, without any blacks at all. The rents of many farms are doubled, and some tripled; yet the tenants pay them, ride better horses, wear finer clothes, and entertain their friends better than before. Several tenants in this parish are become proprietors, by mere success in farming, and have far more general knowledge too than they had 30 or 20 years ago. There is 1 flock of sheep, about 13 score; the wool sells at between 16s. and L. 1 the stone. The farmers have access to lime, within 10 or 12 miles. The roads are good, and without turnpikes.

*Population.*—The population of this parish is diminished one-fifth in the period of these 35 years past; which is owing, probably, to 1 village being allowed to go to decay, the union of farms, and the use of two horse ploughs.

|                              |   |   |   |     |       |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|-----|-------|
| Inhabitants,                 | - | - | - | 306 |       |
| Males,                       | - | - | - | 134 |       |
| Females,                     | - | - | - | 172 |       |
| Males under 10 years of age, | - | - | - | 33  | } 74  |
| Females,                     | - | - | - | 41  |       |
| Males between 10 and 20,     | - | - | - | 33  | } 62  |
| Females,                     | - | - | - | 29  |       |
| Males between 20 and 50,     | - | - | - | 46  | } 127 |
| Females,                     | - | - | - | 81  |       |
| Males between 50 and 70,     | - | - | - | 22  | } 39  |
| Females,                     | - | - | - | 17  |       |
| Males between 70 and 100,    | - | - | - | 0   | } 4   |
| Females,                     | - | - | - | 4   |       |

The



The number of births, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, is increased. From a comparison of the number of births from 1726 to 1736, when the parish was more populous, with that from 1776 to 1786, when it was less so, the proportional increase was found to be about one-tenth. The air is good, and the situation dry; the practice of inoculating children for the small-pox, is also favourable to population. The people are in more easy circumstances, which encourages matrimony.

*Stipend, &c.*—The stipend is between L. 80 and L. 90 Sterling, with  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres of glebe, of a thin soil. Colonel Baillie is patron. There are 7 heritors, 5 of whom reside.—The weekly collections for the poor are very small; but the poor are few in number.—The schoolmaster's salary is 80 merks, with the interest of 2000 merks; the perquisites are very trifling, and the number of scholars small.

*Antiquities.*—There is a little hill near the church, with the vestiges of a Roman camp upon it. It has 2 lines of circumvallation; the one is much wider than the other, as an outwork, within a mile of the Tay. There is another of the same kind, on a higher hill, west of the former; it is likewise within a mile of the Tay. This hill is seen from the north windows of the Old Town of Edinburgh. The lines about these camps are rough stones. The highest of these hills is called *Normans-Law*, or the Hill of Northern Men. The tradition concerning these camps is, that when the Normans invaded for plunder, and not for conquest, they deposited their spoils there, till they got intelligence of a force being raised in the country, that was able to repel them; then they hastened to their boats in the Tay. Cardinal Beaton's castle stands by the church of Criech. The tradition is, that the Cardinal kept there a little country



try seraglio. It is defended on one side, by a morass; and on the other side, has had strong outworks. Being much defaced, and some of the finest stones removed, no inscription can be found to mark its date. There were lately found, in a rising spot of ground near the manse, 2 brown jars, with their bottoms upwards, and a broad stone laid on each, containing human bones. The bones were much consumed, yet joints, &c. were discernible. It must have been long since they were put there, as burning or in-urnning the dead, is not a late practice in this country.

*Thunder.*—About 18 or 20 years ago, the lightning struck Pitcullo house, about 4 miles north of Cupar. It entered in 2 streams; one came down the kitchen chimney, tore off the jack-case, and left 3 or 4 black spots on the roof of the kitchen, at considerable distances from each other. A servant sitting in a closet off the kitchen, had a large hole burnt in the crown of her head-dress. She was some hours insensible, but recovered. When the stroke came, she thought that she was falling into a swoon or faint. The other stream entered by a fine shell-closet, stripped a few shells and some frosting off, then went down the stone-turnpike, and burst through the panneling of another room, where was a mahogany table. This table was picked, as if hit with very small shot. Here its force was exhausted.—Thunder broke within a mile of the manse in summer 1789, in a low-lying field of oats. It laid flat the corn for about 15 or 16 yards in length, and 7 or 8 in breadth. The straw that was before green, and full of sap, became yellow and withered. The earth on the spot was ploughed up, though not deep. This field, though lying so low, is near the Tay, and water is an attractor.—Four or 5 years ago, a tremendous flash, accompanied with a dreadful peal of thunder, killed 2 tradesmen at Cupar. They were sitting.



ing in one of the highest houses there, and on the loft immediately above them were several pieces of old iron. The watch of one of them scarcely retained any of its former shape. It looked as if it had lain some time in a smith's furnace. The lightning seems to spread like small shot when near spent. There is undoubtedly a strong concussion of the air when it strikes. In the room in Pitcullo house, the glass was all forced out of the windows, though the casements were not marked. The house in Cupar, where the men were killed, had both side-walls a little split, and burst out from the flooring.

*Hills.*—The hills not only shelter, but by the rains washing them down in the course of ages, increase and meliorate the soil of the valleys. There is a narrow strath, which runs through this parish, E. through Kilmeny, and W. through Dunbog and Abdie, the adjacent parishes, which is sheltered by the Ochil Hills, and the dealers in barley prefer the grain to much that grows in other parts of Fife. The rich Carse of Gowrie, opposite to this parish, is sheltered in the same way. It, perhaps, deserves notice, that the most remarkable ridges of hills in Scotland run E. and W. This holds with respect to the Grampian, as well as the Ochil Hills. It has been remarked, that the great ridges of mountains in England, extend generally E. and W. too. The same has been observed of the Alps, of Caucasus, and Taurus, in Asia; and of Atlas, in Africa. Besides affording shelter, they are said to prevent the exhaled vapours from going too much N. or S. that there may be a sufficiency of rain for the inland countries.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is one Seceder family here, and a few other individuals that are Seceders. It is supposed they are not increasing along the banks of the  
Tay



Tay and Forth, where they were at first most numerous. They, too, are less bigotted now, from the increase of knowledge.—Industry is inculcated both publicly and privately, as one of the cardinal virtues; and indeed it is more easy to persuade to this, than to some other virtues, as the reward of it immediately follows.—Many of our young people leave us, to go to the neighbouring towns of Dundee and Perth, to learn handicraft trades.—There is only one ale-house.—It has been reported, that in a part of the parish of Leuchars, near this, there were a race of Danish shepherds, who kept their sheep as well as themselves in their original state, and produced wool not inferior to that of Shetland; but I am informed, that the people do not keep themselves separate, but intermarry in the neighbourhood; and as to their wool, I do not hear that it is praised. Their sheep are of a small size, and feed on coarse grass or bent. When other sheep sell at 14 s. or 16 s. these people are glad to get 6 s. or 7 s. for theirs.

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NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF DUNBOG,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By Dr GREENLAW, Minister of Crieck.

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*Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

**T**HIS parish lies low, between 2 hills, and has a pretty large bog or morass, one mile long, and about half a mile broad, at the W. end of it, from which the name *Dunbog* has probably arisen. It is bounded by Monimail on the S. and E.; by Abdie on the W.; by Flisk on the N.; by Crieck on the E.; and is situated in the presbytery of Cupar, and Synod of Fife. Its length is about 3 miles, breadth 2. The greatest part of the lands is arable, but much of them wettish. They produce good barley; great part is capable of bearing wheat; and the tenants are improving in their mode of culture. There is only 1 flock of sheep, of about 13 score, of a pretty large size, brought hither from the southern parts of Scotland.



|                            |   |   |   |     |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| <i>Population.</i> —Souls, | - | - | - | 235 |
| Males,                     | - | - | - | 115 |
| Females,                   | - | - | - | 120 |
| Aged below 10,             | - | - | - | 48  |
| Between 10 and 20,         | - | - | - | 56  |
| 20 and 50,                 | - | - | - | 100 |
| 50 and 70,                 | - | - | - | 26  |
| 70 and 100,                | - | - | - | 5   |

*Wages, Cottagers, &c.*—A ploughman's usual wages are from L. 4, 10 s. to L. 8, according to his character for care and skill; those of women servants, L. 2, 10 s. or L. 3; a good wright or mason's wages, in summer, are 1 s. 6 d. in winter, 1 s. 2 d.; a tailor's, 6 d. or 8 d. with victuals. The people are industrious, and there is only 1 ale-house. Cottagers generally hold the farmers ploughs, get livery meal, have an acre of land, a house, and small garden, and furnish 2 reapers in harvest. There are several threshing machines here; but they seem, as yet, to save only a *lot-man*, as he is called, who threshes for so much the boll. These machines are useful, when a merchant offers for barley or wheat, and who would not wait the slow progress of a lot-man; for the machines can thresh 40 bolls in a day.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church and manse are in pretty good order. The stipend is between L. 70 and L. 80, with 4 acres of a good glebe. The Crown is patron. There are 3 heritors, none of whom reside. The schoolmaster's salary is only about 100 merks. The poor are supplied by the weekly collections, and interest of poors money.

*Remarks on the State of the Clergy and Schoolmasters.*—Unless a general augmentation of stipends becomes an object to persons



persons of influence, the clergy of Scotland must degenerate. If they become objects of compassion, their weight must be lessened, and no respectability of character will counterbalance that evil. Should the teachers of religion become meanly thought of, on account of their poverty, religion will suffer; and if good morals decline, industry, which requires regularity and sobriety of conduct, must decline also. The very small encouragement also given to schoolmasters, is one of the greatest evils; for it is not only an unspeakable loss to the poor men who teach, but to the rising generation. There are not a few parishes in this neighbourhood, where the salary is only 100 merks. Some have L. 100 Scots. But what man fit to teach can live upon this? What knowledge can he communicate? A common tradesman can live more at his ease. Were the encouragement increased, though but a little, it would do more good than can be expressed. Imperfect teaching of youth is like bad plowing in spring, which must of necessity produce a bad crop in harvest. The poorer sort of people are left without a remedy, and must send their children to the parish schoolmasters, such as they are.

NUM-



## NUMBER XXXII.

## PARISH OF BARRIE,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

*By the Rev. Mr DAVID SIM.**Extent, Situation, Soil, Climate, &c.*

**T**HIS parish is computed to extend about 3 miles from E. to W. and 4 from N. to S. Its figure resembles the form of a long bow, with its string strained to the utmost pitch. The boldest side of the curve is bounded on the W. and part of the S. by a quick bending of the banks of the river Tay, and on the E. S. E. and part of the S. by a low sandy shore of the German Sea. The flat side of the curve is bounded by the parish of Panbride on the N. E. and part of the N. and on part of the N. and N. W. by the parish of Monikie.—The parish is in the presbytery of Aberbrothock, and the Synod of Angus and Mearns. A high verdant bank, which seems once to have formed a steep shore of the ocean, runs through the whole, from E. to W. giving to the northern division the appearance of a great regular terrace, elevated about 50 feet above the southern part.—The soil is various. The lower division is composed



composed of a thirsty down, which barely suffices for the grazing of a few flocks of sheep and of young cattle, interspersed with some acres of arable land, which, in showery seasons, yield a moderate crop of grain. The upper division is partly light loam, partly generous gravel, and a few fields approach to a deep black soil. The mould, though in no respect rich, favoured by inclosure in many parts, and aided in general by an enlightened husbandry, produces crops of wheat, barley, oats, peas, turnip, flax, clover, potatoes, little inferior in quantity and quality to the growth of the same extent of land in districts distinguished by a valuable soil.—Within the bounds of this small parish, a diversity of climate is experienced. The lower division, from its sandy nature, and the interposing banks which hide it from the ocean, though sometimes covered with hazy fogs, is warm in summer, and enjoys a kindly temperature in the winter months. The upper division, elevated above the level of the sea, is sensibly cooler in the warmest weather, and in winter feels the almost unbroken severity of the winds from the E. and the N. W. The climate is not uncommonly hostile to the constitution. The inhabitants paid an annual tribute to the ague, while the land continued undrained, and in rainy winters some complaints of rheumatism are still heard of; but there are no distempers strictly local. It will readily be perceived, that a climate, circumstanced as that of Barrie, must be friendly to vegetable productions. An early verdure covers the fields. The sowing season commences about the middle of March, and the corns are generally lodged in the barnyard before the second week of October. Migratory birds visit this place very early in the season. The parish might perhaps claim the appellation of beautiful, did not the soil in some parts, and the vicinity to the sea in others, deprive it of the verdure of thriving and copious wood.

*Prices*



*Prices and Wages.*—The parish is nearly supplied with provisions of its own produce. A few stones of butcher-meat are purchased from the Dundee market, by a family or two, during the summer; but oats, furnishing the meal, that is the principal article of food, are raised in sufficient quantities. A quantity of wheat and oat-meal is annually sold at Dundee, and several hundred bolls of barley are exported, to supply the exigencies of some of the northern and western counties of Scotland. A number of black cattle, reared and grazed within the parish, are yearly carried to England; and some oxen, stall-fed with turnip, are purchased by the butchers of the neighbouring towns. Wheat is generally sold at L. 1, 1 s. barley at 14 s. oat-meal at 14 s. the boll; beef, mutton, veal, pork, at 3½ d. the pound, of 16 oz.; ducks at 10 d. a-piece; hens at 1 s.; butter at 8 d. the pound, of 22 oz.; cheese at 4 s. 6 d. the stone; eggs at 3 d. the dozen.—The hire of labourers is 1 s. a-day, from the 1st of March to the 1st of November, and 10 d. during the rest of the year, excepting the time of hay-mowing and harvest, when they are paid at the rate of 1 s. 6 d. a-day. The wages of a carpenter are 1 s. 3 d. of a mason 1 s. 8 d. of a tailor 1 s. In the above statement, the victuals of the labourers and tradesmen are included. The average hire of farm-servants, when they eat in the house, is L. 8 a-year for men, and L. 3 for women. Domestic servants form no distinct class. There is not a male or female servant in the parish, who is not employed some-time during the year in the work of the field.

*Manufactures.*—Every householder almost is a manufacturer of brown linen. In the foreign markets, the linen stamped at Aberbrothock has acquired a high reputation; and it will not be denied, that to the cloth made at Barrie, which has long been distinguished for the goodness of its materials,



materials, and the superiority of its workmanship, the stamp of Aberbrothock is indebted for part of its fame. By introducing honour as a prompter to excellence, the manufacture of Barrie has reached its present perfection. For more than 40 years, the inspection of the weaving, by the unanimous consent of the manufacturers, has been assigned to an annual officer, who is allowed to choose two assistant counsellors. The officer, with his assessors, are eagle-eyed to discover every blemish. A pecuniary fine, or what is more dreaded, the correction of ridicule, overtakes every one who is in fault. These circumstances have contributed to fix such habits of attention and accuracy, that instances occur of workmen whose cloth has not been cast at the stamp-office in a period of 20 years. Exclusive of considerable quantities of home-grown flax, the manufacturers use yearly of foreign flax, from Riga and Petersburg, several tons, amounting in value to more than L. 800. The manufacturers are in number 100. The condition of this useful class of men might be ameliorated, by insuring to them at all times abundance of flax at a reasonable rate, by continuing the encouragement on the linen branch, and by rescuing the manufactures from a twofold combination of the brown linen merchants, by which they enhance at pleasure the price of the foreign flax they sell, and depress the price of the cloth they buy.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 689. At present (1791) the population is 796.

*Baptisms,*



*Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for the last 10 Years.*

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Baptisms.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Burials.</i> |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1781          | 21               | 4                 | 11              |
| 1782          | 20               | 5                 | 13              |
| 1783          | 22               | 5                 | 13              |
| 1784          | 19               | 1                 | 7               |
| 1785          | 21               | 3                 | 12              |
| 1786          | 23               | 7                 | 4               |
| 1787          | 24               | 5                 | 8               |
| 1788          | 18               | 7                 | 7               |
| 1789          | 23               | 7                 | 10              |
| 1790          | 21               | 3                 | 7               |
|               | <hr/> 212        | <hr/> 47          | <hr/> 92        |

Excepting 4 or 5 Antiburgher Seceders, and 3 Episcopalians, the people in the parish are all members of the Established Church. There are 3 students of divinity. There are 8 heritors, 3 only of whom reside.—It may not be entirely foreign to the present article, to notice, that by the late minister of Barrie, who lived in the parish not less than 50 years, it was frequently remarked, that dying persons expired during the ebbing of the tide. With this remark accords that observation in Pliny's Natural History, (Lib. ii. cap. 98.), quoted from Aristotle, who affirms, that 'no animal expires, unless during the going back of the tide.' To which Pliny adds, 'Observatum id multum in Gallico Oceano, et duntaxat in homine compertum.'

*Stipend, School and Poor.*—The living, including the glebe, is something more than L. 80 Sterling a-year. The King is patron. The manse, though repaired only 10 years ago, is hardly a tolerable house. The kirk is an old and sorry building.—The office of schoolmaster has, for many years past,



past, been discharged by young men of liberal education, who have successively come forward to preach, to lecture in colleges, and to fill very reputable departments in society. The annual emoluments are inconsiderable. L. 5, 11 s. Sterling of salary, L. 2 as session-clerk's fees, 5 s. for each proclamation of banns, 10 d. for registering each baptism, 3 d. for the registration of each burial, and 1 s. 6 d. a quarter, as the average fees for 40 scholars throughout the year, with some trifling gratuities, make up the total sum of the annual income.—The sum of L. 30 Sterling, arising partly from Sabbath day collections, partly from the rent of some seats in the church, is the only fund allotted for pious purposes within the parish, and the annual support of the poor. A small portion of the money is yearly applied by the kirk-session, to furnish with necessary books a few of the children of indigent parents, who are unable to give them a school education without this aid. The reversion is distributed among the poor. The number on the roll is generally 11. The poor receive the public charity in their own cottages. A begging native has not been known in the parish for many years. Beggars from other places abound.

*Sheep*.—The late institution of the British Wool Society, gives increased importance to the flocks of every district. The pastures of Barrie may contain 1000 sheep. In a country where sheep are not the sole object of the farmer's care, an unexceptionable breed can hardly be expected. The sheep of Barrie have no distinct character. A few annual recruits imported partly from Fife, partly from the northern counties, lately formed the mixed race. It was supposed, that the union of the Fife ewe with the northern ram, would have produced a species hardy, and at the same time fine wool. Disappointment, as to the latter quality in



particular, has been the result of some experiments. An introduction of the English breed seemed to promise a species, valuable for wool, and of a large size. However, a pasture which affords but harsh grafs and scanty shelter, was found ill suited to such sheep. The small Fife sheep, weighing 32 pounds, unites in some measure the advantages of a profitable fleece and a pretty durable constitution, and at present appears best adapted to the soil. It were desirable, if a breed affording a greater weight of wool could be obtained. Not less than 12 fleeces, at an average, produce 1 stone of wool. Of the wool, which is generally sold at 1 s. the pound, is manufactured almost every kind of cloth worn in the parish; hodden, which is mostly used for herds cloaks, and is sold at 1 s. 8 d. the yard; plaiding, which is sometimes shaped into a coarse kind of hose, and is sold at 2 s. the yard; sey, the common cloth for mens apparel, sold, when dyed, at 5 s. the yard; timming, camblet for womens gowns, when in colours, are respectively sold at 3 s. and 2 s. 10 d. the yard; blankets sold at 12 s. the pair, consisting of 4 yards; Sabbath day plaids for women, when dyed of 2 or 3 various colours, and containing about 4 yards, at 16 s. a-piece.—The scab, from accident, and the rot, from the nature of some of the sheep-walks, are among the number of the diseases to which the sheep are liable. The prescription of Dr Anderson (tobacco oil) has been applied with some success in the former disease. Another malady, against which no remedy has yet been devised, preys on the sheep here. Among the shepherds, it is called the *Bracks*. The autumn is the season of its attack. The most lusty, and apparently vigorous of the flock, are singled out as its victims. It kills in 2 hours from the time it is at first observed. From the description which the writer has received, excess of blood appears to be the probable cause of the disorder. The dead carcase is remarkably



markably bloated and discoloured, and in a very short time becomes a carrion. The experience of an aged man, who for many years was a sheep-master in the parish, affords some presumption, that a preventative may be found to the bracks. He let blood of his sheep uniformly in the summer season, and he does not recollect that the bracks at any time thinned his folds.

*Remarkable Objects and Antiquities.*—In the southern extremity of the parish, on the banks of the Tay, stand 2 reflecting light-houses, reared to direct the vessels trading to Dundee and Perth through the perilous entrance of the Tay. The largest, which is stationary, is a circular stone building erected on piles; the other a moveable wooden fabric, raised on rollers. When the two lights are seen in one, the pilot may navigate the river without fear. The expence of the lights is defrayed by a small tax on the tonnage of the vessels which enter the Tay.—The Danes seem to have been destined, by their misfortunes, to furnish the only memorable objects of antiquity which Barrie affords. On the eastern boundary of the parish many tumuli appear. The traces of a camp in their immediate neighbourhood, Carnoustie, *i. e.* the Cairn of Heroes, the name of an adjoining estate, the vicinity of a brook, which is said to have run three days with blood, proclaim these tumuli the graves of those northern Marauders who fell in the desperate engagement, which, according to Buchanan, (B. 6. chap. 50.), took place near Panbride, between the Danish troops commanded by Canus, and the Scotch army under King Malcolm II.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The roads have at no time been much indebted to the improvement of art. The post-road between Dundee and Aberbrothock, which for a long period



riod ran through its bounds, was merely a line traced by frequent passengers on the surface of the soil. A new post-road, formed 20 years since to the northward of Barrie parish, has annually engrossed nearly the statute-labour of the contiguous district. The small reversion allotted to Barrie, has been faithfully and judiciously applied by a resident Justice of the Peace; but in a light sandy track, where gravel cannot be obtained without great expence, it may well be conceived, that the repairs effected by a trifling sum, can neither be permanent nor extensive. Nature, however, has not been unkind; the roads of Barrie, though somewhat fatiguing, are at all seasons dry. Voluntary contributions reared, and have hitherto supported, the bridges within the parish. A detailed account of the bridges would reflect no honour on the police of the district.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—Vicinity to the sea is an obvious advantage to this parish. Though it has no formed harbours, the surrounding beach affords a safe landing place to small vessels; by which lime, the staple manure, and coals, the chief article of fuel, are imported from the frith of Forth, and sold at a reasonable rate. Lime shells are delivered from the ship at 1 s. 6 d. the boll. Coals, conveyed to the most distant parts of the parish, are bought by the cottager at 6 s. 8 d. weighing 72 stones.—But amid the advantages which Providence has already bestowed, and human improvements promise to confer, the parishioners of Barrie experience a rigorous restriction to a barony mill; a species of vassalage, which they deem an inconvenience of no trivial kind. Legal applications for redress have hitherto produced a very partial relief; while, from the unavoidable ambiguity of old papers, the reciprocal services of the millmaster, and the restricted farmer, furnish a source of hourly discord; while



while dues are exacted by an unstamped measure, which is no part of the standard of the nation; while a power is lodged with the renter of a hopper, to demand, by a solemn oath, an account of every pea, every barley-corn, every grain of oats, which is daily distributed to every labouring stead, perhaps dropped to every hen. Thus circumstanced, it will not appear strange, if the people of Barrie look forward to the abolition of thirlage, as a change much to be wished. They are sufficiently sensible, that an adequate compensation is due to the representatives of those men, who originally reared those accommodations, which have proved so eminently useful to the community. Keeping this in view, they find themselves strongly inclined to join in any legal, well-concerted plan, by which they may be relieved from a species of servitude, which has often produced the most bitter effects; and has brought along with it, consequences not only hostile to improvements, but even to the best interests of morality and religion. The multiplicity of oaths introduced into processes relating to thirlage, tend in some degree to take off that respect to things sacred, which every true statesman would desire to preserve unviolated.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In general, the people are attached to the trades of their fathers. Farming and weaving are the professions which stand highest in their esteem. To other employments, hardly so many are inclined as supply the ordinary demands of the parish. The fine appearance of summer fleets on the smooth surface of the Tay, allures a few boys to a sea-faring life. Dissipation is unknown; though the short space of a quarter of a mile presents to the view of the traveller the whole inns and ale-houses in the parish, amounting to no less than 4. This assemblage, principally designed for the accommodation of strangers



strangers journeying between Dundee and Arbroath, must not be interpreted to the disadvantage of the parishioners, who are industrious in a high degree, and in their money engagements are punctual to a proverb. Vulgar report has sometimes involved, along with the inhabitants of the surrounding country, the people of Barrie in a charge of inhumanity to shipwrecked mariners; but more truly may they be characterised as dupes, by their compassion to 100 pretendedly shipwrecked.—The oppression must be grievous indeed, which can drive them from their native soil. A sort of *maladie de pais* rivets them to the place of their birth.—Though the houses, dress, style of living, &c. of the parishioners, indicate nothing disproportionate to their real wealth, a considerable alteration in these different articles has taken place within a period of 20 years. Instead of the turf-built cottages of former days, the eyes of the observer are sometimes pleased with mansions, neat, commodious, almost elegant. Leeds, Manchester, Spitalfields, unite to furnish the apparel of those who were formerly contented with clothing wholly manufactured on the north side of the Tweed. The persons, however, of this description are not numerous. The bulk of the people are easily distinguished from those of the surrounding parishes, by a rejection of the fopperies of dress, and a becoming attachment to articles made in their own families. The improvement in the style of living may be characterised, not by a rapid transition from sordidness to luxury, but rather by a gradual remove from meanness to a comfortable mode of life. A strict attention to œconomy, joined with a pride of inheriting unimpaired their paternal acres, prevents, among the heritors of Barrie, that fluctuation of property which has lately marked many parts of Scotland. Some lands, however, have within these few years changed their masters. The price about 25 years purchase.—The size of  
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the farms can be reduced to no average measure. The upper division of the parish, which may be properly styled the arable part, is parcelled out among 10 or 11 landholders, 3 of whom are proprietors. Their farms contain respectively from 30 to 300 acres a-piece. A happy adjustment of things has prevented a monopoly of farms, many of the leases presently current having been granted before the all-engrossing system began to extend its baneful influence. It cannot be denied, however, that when any tack happens to fall, this system discovers itself in miniature, by a marked avidity to join to the former possession of a house and yard, the ground plot of a razed house, and the extent of its attached yard. Along with the mode of labouring with horses, instead of oxen, the number of cottagers in the service of the farmers has been diminished. There is no planned design to depress cottagers; but servants entertained in the house, are found more conveniently placed for every exigence, are perhaps less expensive, not less active, not less disinterested, than those who have families of their own. Besides 12 day-labourers, who have merely houses and yards, the only class of men who fall under the description of cottagers, are those employed by the farmers for threshing the corns. They receive as wages, the twenty-fifth boll of each kind of grain they separate from the straw, with a dinner each working day. The plough of Small's construction, drawn generally by 4 horses, and attended by a stout lad and a boy, appears well adapted to every variety of soil in the parish. In a small parish, of which not a third part is arable land, the number of ploughs and carts is very inconsiderable. One waggon was made at Barrie in the year 1791. No waggon-road can reasonably be expected in the parish sooner than the year 1793.



## NUMBER XXXIII.

## PARISH OF EARLSTOUN,

## (COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

*By the Rev. Mr LAURENCE JOHNSTON.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil, Air, &c.*

THE parish probably derives its name from being originally the residence of the Earls of March, one of whom lived here about the middle of the 13th century. It is by some called Arsehilltoun, because the village is in a low situation, and almost surrounded with rising grounds. However, I take the other to be its true name, and this to be only a corruption of it; for there is no doubt that the family of March lived here at the period above mentioned. The parish is about 6 miles in length, from E. to W. and from 3 to 4 in breadth. It is bounded by the parishes of Lauder and Melrose on the W. and S. W.; by Mertoun on the S.; by Smalholm and Nenthorn on the S. E. and E.; and by Gordon and Legertwood on the N. E. N. and N. W. It is situated in the west end of the county of Merse or Berwick, in the presbytery of Lauder, and Synod of Merse and Tiviotdale. The soil is not all the same; some parts of it are clay, others a light dry soil, and other parts are a desirable mixture of both. And as the  
soil,



soil, so the climate is also different. It is more mild in the westermost parts of the parish, where the soil is generally light and dry, than in the eastermost parts of it, where the soil is stronger and wetter. But, notwithstanding the difference of both soil and climate, the people are in general healthy; many of them arrive at old age. The most common diseases are agues, rheumatisms, and scrophula. The frequency of the last is probably owing to intermarriages. The ague has not been so frequent these 2 years past as formerly; but consumptive complaints are more common, probably owing to the scrophula; as it is mostly those who are of that habit that become consumptive. About 14 or 15 years ago, the Honourable Mr and Mrs Baillie, both very humane and benevolent, caused inoculate, at their expence, above 70 children in this parish and neighbourhood; all of whom did well, except 2, who were of a scrophulous habit. Ever, since inoculation has been rather more generally practised, and has been the happy means of preserving many lives.

*Rivers.*—The river Leader runs along the W. end, and the river Eden along the E. end of the parish. Both have their source in Lammar Muir, and run into Tweed. They formerly abounded with very fine trout, the first also with salmon. But since the farmers have set about improving their farms, neither salmon nor trout are near so plenty in either. This is thought to be owing to the liming of the grounds on each side of the rivers, which, by heavy rains, is often washed down into the rivers, and is supposed either to scare or kill the fish.

*Plantations*—There are large plantations of wood in the E. end of the parish, which are a great ornament to that part of the country, as well as a benefit to the adjacent fields,



fields, to which they afford great shelter. There are also strips and clumps of planting lately made in other parts of it, which, when grown, will add greatly to the beauty of the place, and be a considerable benefit to the proprietors.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 1197. There are at present (1791) 670 males, and 681 females. In all, 1351 souls. 653 are of the Established Church, the rest are Sectaries. I do not think it has increased in numbers of late years. The farms are now much larger than formerly. What used to serve 12 or 13 farmers, is now occupied by 4, which must rather diminish than increase the number of inhabitants.

*Manufactures, Agriculture, &c.*—Although the parish consists chiefly of villages, yet very few manufactures are carried on in it. The principal one is linen cloth. There are between 40 and 50 weavers looms, mostly employed weaving linen, and the greatest part of that cloth is for sale. We have only one woollen manufacturer, though no place can be better situated for carrying on that branch of trade, than the village of Earlstoun is. Leader runs along the west end of it, where there is an extensive beautiful haugh, and there is plenty of wool, if not in the parish, yet in the neighbourhood, to supply 20 manufacturers, though they manufactured to a considerable extent. Nor can any part of the country be better accommodated with roads. The turnpike between Edinburgh and Jedburgh, goes close by the west end of the village, and the great road from Edinburgh to London, by Kelso, goes within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile of the east end of it. There are 4 mills in the parish, which manufacture a considerable quantity of all kinds of grain. Besides what the inhabitants of the parish consume, they make into meal and barley above 7000 bolls,



bolts, Linlithgow measure, every year; all which is carried to Dalkeith and Edinburgh markets. Coal and lime are brought home in return.—There are about 2000 sheep kept in the parish. The farmers also rear a considerable number of black cattle every year. Besides these, they buy many in the autumn; which, with these of their own that are of proper age, they fatten on turnips. They are now beginning to breed horses. This will probably be the means of lowering the price of that useful animal, which, for some years past, has been very high. Horses are absolutely necessary in this part of the country, for it is by them the farmers labour their farms, and drive their corn to market. They never work with oxen now, as they used to do formerly.—The most common crops in this parish are oats, barley, and peas. There is also some wheat every year; but the quantity of it is small, in proportion to the other kinds of grain. Turnips and potatoes are very general, and commonly very good. There is now a great quantity of clover and rye-grass sown, and some flax for private use. The oats that grow on the grounds about Fans, are much esteemed for feed. In seed-time, they generally sell for 3 s. or 4 s. a boll more than other oats, and there is usually a considerable demand for them at that season. Of late years the quality, both of sheep, black cattle, and horses, has been greatly improved, and their numbers increased, owing to the improvements that have been made in husbandry; and if the farmers continue in the same spirit of improving their farms, which I hope they will, there is not the least doubt but their black cattle, horses, and sheep, will still improve, both in quality and number.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 5948:13:11  $\frac{6}{12}$  Scots. There are about 40 proprietors in it, 3 of whom are freeholders; the others are all feuers or portioners.

*Stipend,*



*Stipend, School, and Poor.*—The stipend is 112 bolls, half oats, half barley, about L. 34 in money, and a glebe, about 8 English acres. The manse was built in 1724, and the church in 1736. The King is patron.—There are 2 schools. The parochial school is in the village of Earlstoun; the salary L. 7 : 19 : 5 Sterling; the master has also the interest of 500 merks Scots, mortified for teaching the children of inrolled poor. The other school is in the village of Mellerstain; the master of it has L. 5 yearly salary, which is the interest of L. 100 Sterling, mortified by the family of Mellerstain, for teaching a certain number of poor children. There is also a Sunday's school in each of these villages, patronised and supported by the Honourable Mrs Baillie.—There are many poor people in this parish. About 30 are inrolled, who receive a weekly allowance, according to their necessities. For this purpose, a sum is raised twice a-year, by assessment on the heritors and tenants. The sum levied these 2 years past has been about L. 70 a-year.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The famous Thomas the Rhymer, (whose real name and title was Sir Thomas Ler-mont), was a native of this parish. He lived at the west end of Earlstoun, where part of his house is still standing, called Rhymer's Tower. And there is a stone built in the fore wall of the church, with this inscription on it, 'Auld Rhymer's race, lies in this place.' He lived in the 13th century, and was co-temporary with one of the Earls of March, who resided here then.

There are 2 fairs held at Earlstoun. One on the 29th of June, for sheep, black cattle, and horses. It is reckoned the second best fair in the south of Scotland, both for sheep and black cattle.—The other fair is held on the third Thursday of October. It is only for black cattle and horses.

There



There is often a good show of black cattle in it, but nothing like what is in the June fair. There are 4 public houses in the parish. But on the fairs, almost every low house is a public one.

One great disadvantage under which this parish labours, is the want of fuel. The common people burn turf and peat. Those in the neighbourhood of Mellerstain are conveniently situated for fire-wood, which they get at a very moderate rate. The better sort of feuers and farmers burn coal, which is usually from the neighbourhood of Dalkeith, a carriage of about 24 or 25 miles, which necessarily makes the price of coals so high, that the poor cannot purchase them. Lime is also carried about 22 miles, from which it is likewise very high priced.

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## NUMBER XXXIV.

## PARISH OF KINGSBARNES,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES BEATSON.**Name, Situation, Soil, Air, &c.*

THE parish of Kingsbarns originally belonged to Crail, till 1631, when it became a separate cure. I have not been able to obtain any decisive information as to the origin of the name. The tradition is, that King John used frequently to live in a large building called the Castle, placed on a small eminence above the beach, and at a quarter of a mile's distance, (where the village is now built), had his store-houses for grain. The remains of the castle were taken down several years ago, and the stones were of an immense size. The parish is in the presbytery of St Andrew's, and Synod of Fife. It lies about 6 English miles E. of St Andrew's, and is nearly square, being fully 4 English miles each way. It is bounded on the N. by St Andrew's parish; on the W. by Deninno; and on the S. and E. by Crail. The soil upon the coast is light and sandy, but now, from proper culture, it bears the same grain with the higher grounds, and of equal quality; although the higher grounds are in general deep, strong, black clay.



clay. Being so near the sea-coast, it is natural to imagine the air is pure, and upon the whole healthy; though I have often thought the water which comes from the higher grounds, and stagnates in the village, occasions nervous fevers, especially among young people, and makes epidemical distempers to rage severely among us. This easily might be prevented, as there is a beautiful and gradual descent from the summit of the higher grounds to the sea-shore, and conduits for the water, at little expence, could be made. The only spring worthy of notice, is a steel mineral, which, about 30 or 40 years ago, was resorted to by many distressed with various complaints. Its taste and strength are the same with the Peterhead water, so justly famed, but the spring much greater; so that, at one period, what flowed from it, afforded a sufficient quantity of water for driving a meal-mill.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 871. From the last state of the rolls, the numbers amounted to 807, of whom 467 reside in the village, and the remaining 340 inhabit the country part of the parish. For 30 years back, the annual averages have been 16 deaths, 22 baptisms, and 6 marriages. There are about 24 extensive farmers, whose families amount to 192 souls. There are only 11 Seceders.

*Wages, Manufactures, Agriculture, &c.*—Male servants wages, able to hold a plough, are not under L. 5, 10s. or L. 6, 6s.; the overseer is allowed from L. 10 to L. 12 a-year. Maid servants wages are from L. 2 to L. 2, 10s. or L. 3. The wages given to labourers hired by the day, in summer, are 10d. or 1s.; in winter 8d.—The Osnaburgh sheeting, and shirting, is the manufacture carried on in the village, which is mostly bought by the Dundee merchants.  
The



The number of weavers is from 20 to 30; and these are the people, at certain seasons of the year, who are also employed in the different fishings. They have greatly the advantage over the fishers in the coast towns to the westward, who, as they are not bred to business, consequently in stormy weather, not only are they idle, but half starved, while the people here are occupied at their looms, and can earn wages sufficient to maintain their families.—The people in general are industrious, much disposed to humane generous actions, and are well contented with the lot assigned them by Almighty God. The seafaring is preferred to the military life; and there is seldom a season but some of the young men are employed in the Greenland whale-fishing.—The cattle annually reared will amount to 480; 5 or 6 yoke of these were constantly employed in agriculture by each farmer some years ago, but horses are now more generally used. At 3 years old, these cattle are put upon turnips, and fattened for the butcher; the price they bring varies according to their size, from L. 11 to L. 12 or L. 14 each. There is no separate map of the parish, but multiplying the number of ploughs, which are 50 by 50, the arable acres accurately may be ascertained; 16 of these plough-gates surround the village, and each of them pay an annual feu of 9 bolls wheat, 11 bolls of bear, and 8 s. 4 d. The best arable land is let from L. 1, 15 s. to L. 2, 2 s. the acre, and the inferior from 15 s. to L. 1. The valued rent of the parish is L. 6353 : 6 : 8 Scots.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The stipend, including L. 5 allowed for glebe and foggage, amounts to about L. 85 yearly. The manse was rebuilt about 28 years ago, and since that time, has been once and again repaired. The Earl of Crawford is patron.—The average number of poor who receive weekly from the session is 12; besides these, many indigent



gent families receive occasionally; and the annual sum expended for their relief will amount to L. 22, some years L. 27 Sterling. These weekly poor are all maintained in their own houses, and are not allowed to beg from door to door. The kirk-session is extremely attentive to give them relief, according to their necessities. They provide medical aid for them when sick, and pay the schoolmaster for teaching their children reading, writing, and the common rules of arithmetic. Besides these advantages, their children have an opportunity of attending the Sunday's school, (established about 2 years ago), where the young ones are instructed in the principles of the Christian faith, and are taught to read and write.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Some years ago vast quantities of haddocks were caught, and sold at moderate prices; but few have appeared for these 3 years. Still a few large and small cod, skait and ling, are got, but not in plenty. At certain seasons the lobster-fishing is worthy of attention, and these all go to the London market. The poor suffer much from the want of herring, as they were the chief part of their winter's provision. Early in spring and autumn are the seasons when the herring appear; but such as are caught are bought at exorbitant prices by merchants, who cure them, and send them up the Mediterranean. —There is no account of any battle or sea engagements. Upon the shore, graves are found lined with stones, after the same construction they are met with in many places of Scotland, and supposed to be Danish.—The only remarkable wreck upon this coast happened in October 1761. After a severe storm from N. E. a three masted vessel, Danish built, was driven ashore, and soon went to pieces; not a human creature was found on board.—On the confines of



the parish, limestone has been found in abundance. The quarry belongs to the Honourable Henry Erskine of Newhall, which he has taken into his own hands, and intends working to a considerable extent.

NUM.



NUMBER XXXV.

P A R I S H O F K E L L S,  
(COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN GILLESPIE.*

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*Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

THE name is Gaelic, and is probably expressive of the situation, which is the highest in this part of the country. The parish lies in the stewarty and presbytery of Kirkcudbright, and Synod of Galloway. It is nearly in the form of an Isosceles triangle, almost surrounded with the rivers Ken and Dee. The Ken runs from N. to S. 14 miles along the east side of it. The Dee rises at the N. W. end, and runs along the W. and S. till it meets the Ken. Its length is about 15 miles; its greatest breadth, at the N. end, 6 miles. It continues nearly of this breadth for 6 miles S.; then gradually diminishes to 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 miles, till it ends in a point at the junction of the two rivers Ken and Dee. It is bounded on the E. by the parishes of Parton, Balmaclellan, and Dalry; on the S. by Balmaghie; on the W. by Girthon and Minnigaff; on the N. by Carsphairn. The air is healthful. The face of the country is hilly and unequal. There are large rocky hills on the south end, covered mostly with heath; still higher hills



hills on the N. W. covered with grass; a great number of lesser rocky hills in the interior part of it, interspersed with large flats of moss, all covered with heath; here and there is a large spot of meadow and arable land. The soil on the S. W. and N. is shallow, rocky, and barren, fit only for sheep-walks. Along the burns and rivulets, are spots of meadow and arable land. On the east side, along the Ken, and for a mile, and sometimes more, on both sides of it, the land is mostly arable, and is either flat or sloping towards the river. The flats are of a deep rich clay; the sloping and higher land, of a thin, dry, and kindly soil, and improved with dung, the only manure the country affords, yields good crops. Some of it of late has been improved with lime and marl, and fully repaid the expence. The flat land at the head of Loch Ken, consisting of 200 acres, is perhaps one of the richest spots in Scotland. It is of a deep clayish soil, enriched by the overflowing of Loch Ken, which covers it several times during winter and spring, and, like the Nile, leaves behind it the salts, oils, and fat earths, carried down by the Ken; so that many acres produce 300 stone of natural hay, and the arable is fertile in proportion. Some of it has been cropped 25 times successively, without any manure, but what it receives from the inundation of Loch Ken. In great falls of rain, the rivers Dee and Ken rise near 7 feet perpendicular, by which large tracks of meadow and low land are laid under water. When these happen in hay time, or in harvest, they greatly damage, and often carry away large quantities of hay and corn. They come so suddenly, that there is no guarding against them. But if in winter, which is ofteneft the case, they rather better the land.

*Lakes, &c.*—There are 6 lochs, besides Loch Ken, 3 of which, on the north end of the parish, are stored with trout;



trout; the other 3, on the south end, near Loch Ken, stored with pike. Loch Ken is 5 miles long, and from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile broad. Loch Ken and Loch Dee are but one loch, continued 10 miles long. They abound with pike, trout, perch, eel, and salmon. The pike grow to a very large size. The head of one, caught with the rod, is preserved at Kenmore Castle, which weighed 57 lb. Some are frequently caught from 20 lb. to 30 lb.; trout and perch, from 1 lb. to 6 lb.; and several trouts have been taken, weighing 8 lb. They are in the greatest perfection in May, June, and July. Few are exposed to sale. Loch Ken and Loch Dee are navigable. Boats of considerable burden are frequently employed in bringing up marl from the Carling-work Loch, and carrying down fir, ash, and oak-wood, with which this hilly country abounds. There is a salmon-fishing on the Dee. At its first erection, about 30 years ago, it was let at about L. 10. It has never been very productive. There is another fishing in this parish, claimed as no man's property, that cannot be easily estimated. I mean a pearl fishery. In dry summers, great number of pearls are fished here; some of great size, and fine water, and are sold from 1s. to L. 1, 1s. according to their size and beauty.

*Hills.*—There is on the south end of this parish, a range of high hills, lying from N. W. to S. E. 5 miles in length, and upwards of 3 miles over, of one continued solid mass of granite, almost naked, only here and there some spots of heath. The sloping sides of these hills, and the flats near them, for a mile S. W. are covered with large masses of loose rock, all granite; so thick, that you may almost walk over them; and so big, that many of them are 10 tons weight. These are not broken pieces of rock, fallen from the hills, for the hills are entire; and if they were, could never have come to their present situation. The  
number,



number, size, and situation of these loose rocks, are a great natural curiosity. At the end of these hills, in the same direction, is another rocky hill, containing great quantities of iron-stone; but, as fuel is scarce, and coal distant, it cannot be turned to any advantage. These hills are the natural soil for goats. On the west side, and north end of the parish, the hills are still higher, covered with grass, but of a bad quality. These hills are called the Kells Range, and are seen at 40 miles distance; so high, that there is snow upon them for 8, and sometimes 9 months in the year. They are the very ridge or highest land in Galloway, and the middle between the two seas on the W. and S. E. As a proof of this, the rivers Ken and Dee, which rise on the east side, run to the S. E. sea at Kirkcudbright; and the Don, which rises on the N. W. side of these, runs to the sea near Ayr. These are a part of a range of high hills, running from W. to E. by Leadhills, the whole breadth of Scotland. There is a great natural curiosity to be seen on the side of one of these hills. The *Rocking Stone*, of 8 or 10 tons weight, so nicely balanced on 2 or 3 points or excrescences, that it moves from one to the other, by the pressure of the finger. Captain Grosse, last harvest, sent and took a drawing of it; and some antiquaries think it has been a Druidical place of worship. It should seem that the stone was formed by nature, just as we see it; and lying on a strata of moss, 2 or 3 inches deep, the rains have in time washed away this moss or earth, and left the stone resting on these points.

*Minerals.*—There is a slate quarry in the north end of this parish, formerly wrought, but, by unskilful management, has fallen into disrepute. If sunk deeper, and skilfully wrought, it might be valuable, and supersede the use of English slate, brought hither at a great expence. The lead



lead mine on Sir William Miller's estate, has never been wrought to any extent. Within half a mile of it, on the same estate, is the appearance of a copper mine. Some miners, about 12 years ago, passing from Leadhills to Minnigaff, observed it, and wrought some days for a trial; and finding the appearance promising, wished to take a tack of it; but disagreeing with the landlord about the terms, it has been neglected ever since. Near the Kenmore, 2 miles further S. there is an appearance of lead. Pieces of the ore have been dug up almost on the surface. Both these are probably a part of the same strata of lead, wrought with so much advantage at Minnigaff, 18 miles S. W. of this, and might perhaps be wrought with equal profit here.

*Animals.*—Foxes, hares, wild cats and badgers, find excellent cover in our woods; otters in the banks of our rivers; of those last, our sportsmen, in time of frost, destroy great numbers. There is plenty of black and red game in our moors. Partridges are not so numerous as in more corn countries. Tarmagants are on our high hills. Plover and snipe in low and marshy lands. Eagles of a large size build on the tops of precipices and high rocks. One killed lately, measured from the tips of the wings 7 feet. Swallows and cuckoos make their appearance about the beginning of April; wood-cocks in the latter end of harvest, when the weather begins to be cold. In a hard winter, flocks of geese and swans come to Loch Ken; wild ducks and teals are there in great abundance at all seasons.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 784. For 10 years past, the average has been, marriages 6; births 13. Inhabited houses are at present 180; 73 of which are in the town of New Galloway.



loway. The number of souls at present is 869; males 438; females 431. Nine wrights, 3 smiths, 7 tailors, 13 weavers, 7 shoemakers, 4 masons, 2 millers, 2 dyers, 2 tanners; apprentices 7. Male labouring servants 36, female 47; students at colleges 5. There is 1 surgeon, formerly 2. The people are mostly of the Established Church, there being only 2 Seceders. The number of inhabitants has greatly decreased since 1764, occasioned partly by the too common practice of uniting several farms into one; partly to the almost total disuse of cottagers and subtenants; partly to the practice of feuing out lands, and building villages on the high roads; and partly to the high rent of small possessions, which compel the poorer sort to retire to these villages. The proportion between the annual births and whole population is as 1 to 67 nearly. Between the annual marriages and the whole population, as 1 to 145 nearly. Some families emigrated to America immediately before the rebellion of the colonies. Some young people, both males and females, leave the parish as servants. Several young men of spirit go to the West Indies as planters and merchants. Some go to England to push their fortunes, as pedlars, and, when sober and industrious, commonly return, after 10 or 12 years, with L. 800 or L. 900, or L. 1000. Several return from the West Indies, after 16 or 17 years, with genteel fortunes; and some young men choose a sea-faring life.

*Agriculture, &c.*—There are between 280 and 290 acres annually employed in raising oats; 15 or 16 in bear and rye; between 70 and 80 in potatoes; no wheat; cabbage, turnip, and other roots are only raised in gardens; little flax or hemp. Potatoes make a principal article of the food of the lower classes of people. Oats are sown from the middle of March to the middle of April; reaped from the



the 20th of August to the middle of October. Potatoes planted in March, ready for digging about Lammas. Crops earlier near New Galloway, and along the Ken, than on the moorish and westerly part of the parish, by several weeks, and better filled. Many farms are inclosed; but the great extent and barrenness of others, discourage the attempt. There are 32 farmers in the parish, each of whom have one or more ploughs. Several labouring men have crofts and small possessions, and each have a plough. The old Scots plough, drawn by 4 horses abreast, is laid aside, and a lighter one adopted. They break up their ley-ground now with 3 horses instead of 4, and sometimes with 2, and 1 man servant, and in the following crops with 2 horses. The ploughs in the parish are 55; carts 47; carriages 2; no waggons.—The parish needs a great deal of more meal, barley and malt than it produceth. There are nearly 17,400 sheep; 1550 black cattle; 150 horses; 200 goats. The farmers depend on the sale of their black cattle, sheep and wool, for the means of paying their rent, and supplying their families with what other articles of provision and clothing they may need. A small quantity of cheese is exported. The butter is all employed in smearing sheep, and not sufficient for that purpose. There is some imported from the west country, or from England.—The land-rent is nearly L. 3000 Sterling. The rent of good arable and meadow ground, is from 12 s. to 16s. the acre; of the best meadow land, 30 s. No artificial grass was sown here till within these 10 years; at present there may be 20 acres. It cannot be raised but by lime or marl, and the distance of each is so great, as discourages the farmers; the lime 20, and the marl 14 miles distant. The present minister was the first who brought marl to the Glenkens; the project was laughed at, as too expensive; but on seeing the rich crops it produced, amply



rewarding the labour and expence, his example was soon followed; and now, both sides of the Ken are enriched by it; and besides, the grain arising from this mode of cultivation, he has the satisfaction of having inspired his people with a spirit of industry; and now, when marl cannot be conveniently got, they have recourse to lime, and find that it pays them very well. There is no marl in Galloway beyond 10 miles from the sea. Here we are 24 miles distant. The cultivation by marl is principally owing to the exertions of Mr Gordon of Greenlaw, a very public spirited gentleman, the sheriff of the county, who not only encouraged the draining of the Carlingwork Loch, where there are immense beds of shell-marl, but at his own expence made a canal 3 miles in length, to join Loch Dee, and constructed a number of flat bottomed boats of different dimensions, to carry the marl from the Carlingwork Loch up the Dee and Ken to this place; some of which carry 20 double cart load, at 20 feet square to the cart load, or 400 solid feet of marl.—There are upwards of 500 acres of natural wood in different spots in this parish, consisting mostly of oak, ash, birch, alder, hazel. These woods have been mostly cut within these 25 years, and the young plants are in a thriving state. Much old fir is in the parish. Many acres of young fir were lately planted. About 80 acres in lochs, besides Loch Ken. There has been a large forest in the north end of this parish; two large farms still retain the name of Upper and Nether Forest, and a large flat of meadow called the King's Holm. This forest has been anciently stocked with deer; several of them were running wild on our moors about 20 years ago. Some old people remember to have seen near 20 of them. Since that time, their number has gradually decreased; the last of them was killed 7 or 8 years ago. Deer were plenty on the hills and



and moors on the south end of this parish, about 60 years ago, and were claimed as the property of Lord Kenmore; at present they are all destroyed.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The peculiar advantages of this parish are these: The particular richness of the taste and flavour of the mutton fed on our high hills, above that fed on the lower and richer grounds; a town, with a constant weekly market; a post-office; the high road from Edinburgh to Portpatrick, and from Glasgow to Kirkcudbright passing through it, and crossing one another at New Galloway.—The peculiar disadvantages of it are, the high situation of the ground, rendering the high hills cold and stormy, and dangerous to sheep; the bad roads through the interior parts of it; the pernicious quality of a species of grass to the health of the sheep in 2 or 3 farms on the side of the Dee, infecting them with a disease called the Vanquish, *i. e.* it weakens, wastes, and would at last kill them, unless removed to another farm; but are no sooner removed than they recover their health, and gradually their strength and fatness. This disease is of a different nature from the rot; for rotten sheep put upon these farms (I am told) often recover.—The best means of meliorating the condition of the people of this parish, would be, 1st, Encouraging and promoting a woollen manufactory at New Galloway; 2dly, Improving the breed of sheep, and quality of the wool. This last has already been attempted, and in some measure effected, by the premium given by the Society for the Encouragement of Fishing and Manufactures, and, if continued, will still more promote this good purpose. 3dly, Making a canal from the sea by the Carlingwork Loch, to join Loch Dee, a scheme some years ago projected, the ground surveyed and levelled, and the expence estimated, but of late dropped. This would be a great advantage to this



this place, for importing freestone, lime, &c. for the purpose of building, and of meliorating the land. 4thly, By making or mending that part of the road leading from Portpatrick to Edinburgh, by New Galloway from Minnigaff to Monnihive, and building bridges over the Ken, especially one at New Galloway, which is often impassable by fords or ferry-boats, and also by making or mending the road leading from New Galloway, cross the moors by Shawhead to Dumfries. This would not only be a great advantage to New Galloway, but to the country in general; for as this road from Portpatrick to Edinburgh by New Galloway is 15 miles nearer than by Carlingwork and Dumfries, and the road from Portpatrick to Dumfries 10 miles nearer by New Galloway than by the Carlingwork, all travellers from Ireland and the shire of Galloway travelling to Edinburgh, Dumfries and England, and all the Irish cattle exported to England, which amount to many thousands yearly, would pass this way, and also all travellers from Edinburgh to Ireland, or shire of Galloway.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend is L. 80 : 11 : 3<sup>6</sup>/<sub>12</sub>. The glebe is worth L. 7. The King is patron. The church was rebuilt 1745, and repaired 1788. The manse was repaired 1765 and 1788, and is still a bad house, and too little to accommodate the minister's family. The number of heritors is 10, 5 of whom reside.—There is a public school at New Galloway in this parish. The school-house was rebuilt last year, and rendered more commodious; the yearly salary 200 merks Scots; scholars, at an average through the year, about 36; salary included, worth L. 30 a-year; wages for English, 1 s. 6 d. a-quarter, English and writing, 2 s. writing and arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d. arithmetic, 3 s. Latin, 3 s. This school is inadequate to serve so large and extensive a parish. It can only serve New Galloway, and that part  
of



of the parish that is within 2 or three miles of it. Such as are farther distant, hire young lads into their families, that have been bred at the public school, to teach their children English, and the first principles of writing and arithmetic, which they can do for L. 3 or L. 4 a-year. When 4 or 5 families lie contiguous to one another, they hire a teacher among them, for which they pay from L. 5 to L. 6, with victuals; and by this means all the children in the parish are taught to read and write.—At an average for the last 12 years, the number of poor, quarterly supplied with alms, is 12; average of collections for that time, L. 12, 10 s.; interest of a fund received in legacies, and otherwise, L. 8, 10 s.; which together make L. 21, given annually to the poor.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—In 1765, beef was from 3 s. to 4 s. mutton from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 6 d. the English stone, a good lamb 3 s. a dozen of eggs 1 d. a hen 4 d. a duck 5 d. &c. At present (1791) the prices are nearly doubled.—The wages of a day-labourer are from 6 d. to 8 d. and victuals; without victuals, from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. The annual wages of a labouring man servant are from L. 5 to L. 7; of a maid servant, from L. 3 to L. 4. A healthy and industrious man is able to maintain and bring up a family.—The fuel commonly made use of is peat; scarce at New Galloway and neighbourhood. The moss is 3 miles distant, inaccessible to carts, by reason of the badness of the roads; carried home in corn-sacks, on horses backs, which, considering the distance, greatly increase the expence, and hinder the poorer sort, who have not horses of their own, from getting home a sufficient quantity; they have recourse to broom, furze, and other brush-wood, to supply the deficiency. In all other parts of the parish peat is plenty, of easy access, and of good quality. Every family cut  
their



their own peat, and though brought home on horses backs, as the distance is short, have sufficient fuel at a very trifling expence. Much coal is used by the better sort, brought in carts from Dalmellington, near 20 miles distant. Though New Galloway is finely situated for a woollen manufacture, the difficulty of finding fuel has hitherto discouraged the manufacturer from fixing there, and hindered both the increase and improvement of the burgh. But now when roads are opening up, and moorlands rendered accessible to carts, both the expence and difficulty will be lessened; for a cart with 1 horse will carry as many as 7 horses on their backs.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are of the common size, between 5 feet 7 inches, and 6 feet, rather stronger made, and of a more rosy and better complexion than those in the low country; owing, perhaps, to their not being accustomed to such hard labour, to their living better, and eating more animal food. There is no part of Scotland where the poor live better, or eat so much animal food, as in this moor country.—There are no public manufactures. The people in general are frugal and industrious, and manufacture most of the woollen and linen cloth used by them. They are fond of music, dancing, and other social amusements.—A part of the landed property has been of late years exchanged, owing partly to the failure of the Douglas and Heron Bank, which has much distressed this part of the country, and partly to other causes. It sold at between 24 and 30 years purchase.—Since 1780, when the act of Parliament was obtained for conversion of the statute-labour, high-roads have been made and repaired by assessments on the parish, not exceeding L. 1 the L. 100 of valuation. Yet this is so inadequate to the making and repairing extensive roads, that many of them are still in bad order.



der. There are eleven stone bridges, and which are kept in good repair. One of them, of two arches, over the large burn of Paharrow, is the private donation of one Quintin Maclurg, a tailor, who lived in that neighbourhood about 60 years ago. Being often in fear and danger of his life, in passing and repassing this burn, to serve his customers, he resolved that no one after him should be in such jeopardy again, and erected this bridge out of the earnings of his trade, which was never more than 4 d. a-day. His name still remains engraven on a large stone on the top of the bridge, as a testimony of his public spirit.—There are only 2 inns in New Galloway, where entertainment can be had for men and horses. There are 7 smaller ale-houses in the town, and 3 in the country parish; but as these cannot afford to pay the licence, they sell only professedly in time of fairs. Formerly there were double that number; but of late years, the law has been so rigorously executed, and heavy fines imposed on such as sell without licence, that many of them have given up selling; and happy for the country that it is so, as cheap whisky has now found its way here.—Within these 10 years, 7 houses have been built and rebuilt in the town of New Galloway, 3 of which are 2 stories high; besides 1 built for a tannery, lately set up there, and now carried on to a great extent. In the country part of the parish there are 4 houses built, and 3 rebuilt, 4 of which are 2 stories high, and elegantly fitted out. A better taste for neatness and elegance is getting into this country, and which always bears some proportion to the spirit of industry. Gentlemen are not only building more elegant houses for themselves, but are also giving better and more convenient houses to their tenants. So many new houses are no proof of the increase of population; on the contrary, the farmers meet with greater encouragement from the landlords, in accumulating several farms into one;

so



so that more houses are gone to ruin, for want of inhabitants, than have been built and rebuilt.—The present custom of employing hired servants, who live in the family, instead of cottagers, has its advantages and disadvantages. The advantages seem to be these: 1st, They are more under the master's eye, and more under his command day and night, than the cottagers, who often live at a distance, and think themselves obliged to work only stated hours: 2dly, An industrious tenant can often make more of the benefit commonly given to cottagers, especially when given in land, or in grass to cows and sheep, which was formerly the case, than will pay the wages of a hired servant.—The disadvantages seem to be, 1st, The decrease of population; for example, there is 1 tenant in this parish that rents L. 300 a-year, and possesses 5 different farms, in which, about 10 years ago, were 7 tenants and 7 cottagers, which make 14 families; but now there are only 10 families in these farms, which is a decrease of 4 families, calculating these at  $4\frac{1}{3}$ , which I find is the calculation nearest to the truth, in the country part of this parish, is 17 persons fewer than formerly. 2dly, The increase of the price of labour. Cottagers were formerly nurseries for breeding up servants, and furnished numbers sufficient for supplying the wants of the parish, and so kept down the price of labour; but now the disuse of them lessens the number of labouring servants, the wages of whom rise or fall in proportion to their numbers; and being scarce for want of proper nurseries for them, the price of labour is greatly increased, and must increase, as the spirit of industry increases, and hands are wanted; so that the disuse of cottagers is, amongst many others, one great cause of the increase of the price of labour. 3dly, This disuse, and the high rent of small possessions, discourage matrimony in young people who are servants.—New Galloway is a royal burgh. It has  
four



four fairs in the year. Here is an excellent meal-market; for as meal and barley are almost always 2 d. and mostly 3 d. the stone cheaper here than at Dalmellenton and shire of Ayr, great quantities are purchased at New Galloway, and carried thither, where they meet with a ready market.—The Park of Glenlee, where there is a house elegantly fitted up by the late Lord President, Sir Thomas Miller, is one of the finest situations in this hilly country. It is on the banks of the river Ken, at the head of a beautiful holm, surrounded with hills, finely skirted with natural wood, and sheltered with clumps of fir, and fine old oak. Two beautiful cascades, or falls of water, are near it.—There is still to be seen the vestige of a road from the King's Holm to the castle of Dindcuck, 3 miles distant. But who this king was, tradition itself does not say. This old castle or abbey, or whatever it was, is now in ruins, and has all the marks of having been a strong place. Some arched cellars, and some pieces of the mouldered walls, are all that remain of a large building.



## NUMBER XXXVI.

## PARISH OF KILMALCOLM,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW).

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN BROWN.*

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*Situation, Soil, Air, &c.*

THE parish is situated in the presbytery of Paisley, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is about 6 miles square, bounded on the W. by the parishes of Port-Glasgow, Greenock, Innerkip and Largo, on the E. by Kilallan and Houston, on the S. by Kilbarchan and Lochwhinnoch, and on the N. by Erskine and the river Clyde. The appearance of the country is more moorish than toward the east of it, abounding much with rocks; but not mountainous, though there are frequent gentle risings on the surface. The soil is shallow, and in a moist season is very prolific in grass and corn. Little barley or bear is raised, though I conceive, if the ground was properly prepared, it would produce this grain with equal success. The air in general is moist, and there are frequent heavy rains from the western shores, often accompanied with high winds. The inhabitants are generally healthy. The most frequent diseases are fevers, consumptions and rheumatisms, occasioned, perhaps, among



among the common people, from frequent wetness and damp cottages. The waters of Grieff and Duchal run through the parish from the W. abounding with fine trouts; in the spawning season salmon come from the Clyde, and leave immense quantities of fry, which remain till April, and then return to Clyde; by cutting a fin as a mark, several have been taken next season to the size of 18 and 20 inches, so quick is their growth in salt water. There is also fine parr. The Clyde produces kelp on the north side of the parish, but it is not much used for manure.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report the numbers were 1495. By a late enumeration there were 951 persons, of whom were 443 males; 508 females.

| <i>Years.</i>  | <i>Baptisms.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Burials.</i> |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1784           | 32               | 12                | 22              |
| 1785           | 45               | 15                | 21              |
| 1786           | 33               | 11                | 28              |
| 1787           | 36               | 13                | 16              |
| 1788           | 45               | 12                | 29              |
| 1789           | 32               | 6                 | 24              |
| 1790           | 38               | 11                | 17              |
|                | <hr/>            | <hr/>             | <hr/>           |
|                | 261              | 80                | 157             |
| Yearly average | <hr/>            | <hr/>             | <hr/>           |
| nearly         | 37               | 11                | 22              |

There is a small village at the church containing about 45 houses and 126 persons. There are 5 wrights, a variety of professing masons, 2 clockmakers, and 8 weavers, 35 Seceders, and 18 of the sect called Macmillanites. Suicide is very rare, only one instance is in remembrance, which happened last year by a person who for some time before had been troubled in mind.

*Agriculture,*



*Agriculture, &c.*—Planting is scarce, excepting about Finlayston, Duchal, Carncuran and Craighate, where the lime-tree abounds, and the soil is favourable for its growth; there is also the elm, oak, plane and fir, and at Duchal beech is in considerable perfection. Farms are generally inclosed. Farmers are small and numerous. For the most part the farms rent from L. 20 to L. 60 Sterling yearly; arable land lets at an average from 15 s. to 20 s. the acre; meadow-ground from 30 s. to 45 s. oats (which is the prevailing crop) are generally sown in the end of March and beginning of April, and the reaping begins for the most part in September. Natural grass abounds; the artificial is little cultivated, though the lime quarry is only about 3 miles distant. The farmer imagines himself more profited by collecting earthen dunghills. Few horses are reared. The cows are generally of a small size between the highland and Galloway breed, but are mostly good milk cows. Sheep are rare. The ploughs are generally of the Scots form, and made very strong, as the ground is stony; each farmer uses only one, as the farms are small. The plough is generally drawn by 3 horses, and 2 men are employed. Much of the ground might be ploughed with 2 horses and a ploughman accustomed to drive by the rein, which is introduced of late with success. Each farmer has generally a single cart. The farmer has a ready market for every article at Port-Glasgow and Greenock, and a high price.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend is L. 63 : 17 : 9½ money, with three chalders of meal, which may be rated at 16 s. the boll, amounting in all to about L. 102. The glebe of a shallow soil, at an average, may be valued at L. 8. The Earl of Glencairn is patron. The church was built about the year 1560. The manse was last repaired in 1788. There are 17 heritors, 2 of whom reside at present. The



The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks; fees for teaching English are 1 s. 6 d. the quarter, writing 2 s. and arithmetic 3 s. During the winter there are about 30 scholars, and in summer 40 and upwards; the roads being so rough, children cannot travel to any considerable distance in winter. He is allowed L. 1 Sterling, for being session-clerk and precentor, out of the public funds, which, together with 1 s. for each proclamation, is his living; and at an average, may amount to L. 15 or thereby, by which he frugally maintains a wife and 3 children at present.—The poor upon the roll at present are about 27, supplied from the public collections at the church, amounting at an average to L. 5 Sterling each Sabbath, together with the interest of some small mortifications, amounting to about L. 49 Sterling yearly, which, with an annual contribution on the approach of the New Year, supports the natives.

*Wages, Prices, &c.*—The wages of a day-labourer are 1 s. 4 d. the rent of cottages is from 15 s. to 30 s. yearly. Peat is the general fuel with the common people, and with others coal is brought from Quarrelton or Comehill; the former are sold at 5 d. the hutch, 4 of which are an ordinary cart-load, and about 6 miles distant; the latter 3 d. the hutch, 5 of which are a cart-load, and 3 miles distant. A labourer employed in husbandry, at an average, has about L. 4 the half year, which, together with the thrift of his wife, gains his family a decent livelihood, or through-bearing, as they term it. Her work is most frequently spinning to the manufacturers in and about Paisley, of lint given by them, or raised in the place. A male servant has, at an average, about L. 8 yearly; a female L. 3; both have their victuals afforded them. Hired servants are found to be more ready upon occasions, especially in harvest. Cottagers frequently live at some distance,



distance, and in this rainy climate, a short time is precious in that season.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people cultivate their farms, and follow no other employment, yet improvements are not advanced to any considerable length. They are as economical as their neighbours, and frugal from their circumstances. Dress, customs and manners, are considerably improved within these 50 years; but the people by no means border on luxury.—The roads are but indifferent. There are 13 bridges, generally built and kept up by the family of Porterfield, and are in good repair. There are 3 of a larger size on the great road from Port-Glasgow to Glasgow. The great road from Glasgow to Greenock, runs through the north corner of the parish for about 2 miles, and there are no other turnpikes. There is no commutation, and the statute labour is indifferently performed. A toll-bar is fixed on the road between Port-Glasgow and Kilbarchan, and it is in contemplation to make a turnpike, which will open a more contiguous line of communication between Ayr and the towns of Port Glasgow and Greenock.—There are 6 ale-houses in the village of Kilmalcolm, and 3 about the centre of the parish. There the country people meet to transact their business, and spend the social hour. Their drink is generally small beer and whisky, the latter is too frequently attended with fatal consequences to the constitution and morals.

There are 3 low hills (as they are termed by the people) in a direct line from W. to E. where tradition says, the laws were administered before Courts of Session were established. There are the remains of the castle of Duchal, the ancient seat of the family of Porterfield, very romantic in its situation, and strong in its construction. Part of it was demolished



lished by the family when they reared a summer house, and in an upper apartment was found a great quantity of human bones.—There are in the parish the 4 communion cups used by John Knox when he first dispensed the sacrament in Scotland. The cups were originally used for the purpose of candlesticks, and perhaps from the necessity of the time converted to this pious purpose. Their hollow bottom reversed forms the cup, and the middle, where the socket seems to be screwed out, forms the foot. They are of the finest silver, and in modern times make a very ancient appearance. They are kept with great care by the family of Glencairn at Finlayston, and the parish is favoured with the use of them on occasion of dispensing the sacrament. The people respect them much for their antiquity, as well as for the solemnity attending them in former and latter times.

NUM-



## NUMBER XXXVII.

## PARISH OF DREGHORN.

(COUNTY OF Ayr.)

*By the Rev. Mr MICHAEL TOD.**Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

THE parish of Dreghorn, or rather the united parishes of Dreghorn and Percietown, are situated in the presbytery of Irvine, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr. These parishes were united in the year 1668. Each of them had a glebe; but the minister possesses only the glebe of Dreghorn. These parishes may be 9 English miles in length, and at the broadest part of them 3 in breadth, though, in some parts they are not one. They are bounded on the W. N. W. and N. by the water of Annock, which separates them from the parishes of Irvine and Stewarttown; and the water of Irvine separates them from Dundonald on the S. They are bounded by Kilmares on the S. E. and on the N. E. by Fenwick. The ground is a gradual ascent from the west end of the parish to the east. The soil in that part of it, which lies nearest to the sea, is either sandy or gravelish. Above the village it is a fine loam, and the rest of it clay. The whole of the parish is arable, except a few acres of marshy ground, which are used as meadow lands.

It



It is also mostly inclosed, and there are a variety of clumps of planting upon the eminences of such lands, as are the property of the Earl of Eglinton. There is also a number of verges of planting upon the estates of the other heritors, all which have a very fine effect in beautifying the country.

*Agriculture.*—The usual crops are oats, bear, and rye-grass. Besides these, there are some small quantities of wheat raised, and two farmers in the parish have several times sown a few acres of turnip. There is very little black victual sown. The method of culture which has been generally followed here for upwards of 30 years is the following. Every farm is now divided into three parts, each of these is ploughed for 3 years in its turn, while the other 2 remain in grass. Grass-seeds are sown with the third year's crop, and the tenant is allowed to cut his hay field for one season, and sometimes for two. Mr Snodgrass of Cuninghamehead has, for upwards of 12 years, differed from this mode of culture. He allows his tenants only to plough one-fourth of their farms for 3 years. By this method each fourth remains 9 years in grass, in place of 6, before it is ploughed up. This he considers as being attended with two advantages to the tenant. It lessens the number of his horses upon the farm, while the fourth that is ploughed up, on account of its long rest, yields nearly as much grain as the third used to do. The pasture grounds are likewise very much improved for the same reason. A further advantage supposed to arise from this is, that when once the lands are put in proper order, the tenant has it not in his power to spoil them, if he was disposed to do so. This plan is considered so far preferable to the other, that in all the late leases of the Earl of Eglinton's estate in this parish it is adopted, where the farm is of a certain extent, as it is also



by some other gentlemen in the country. Mr Snodgrafs has made the following alteration upon his own plan. In any of the leafes he has lately given to his tenants, he restricts them to plough one-fourth for 2 years only, while the other three-fourths remain in grafs for 6. This he looks upon as an improvement upon his former plan, as 3 fucceffive crops of oats are confidered to impoverish a field very much, even though it is in the highest order when at first broke up. There is a confiderable quantity of very fine cheefe made in the parish. Some of the farmers keep from 12 to 20 milk cows. The average rent of lands in the parish will be from a guinea to 22 s. the acre. There are a few fields in it rented fo high as 42 s. and 43 s.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 887. The number of fouls at present is about 830. Of these there are about 400 males, and 430 females. There are 6 perfons above 80, 18 above 70, 85 above 50, 313 above 20, 202 above 10, and 206 below 10 years of age.

*Marriages, Births, and Deaths, for the last 10 years.*

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Births.</i> | <i>Deaths.</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1781          | 13                | 21             | 12             |
| 1782          | 16                | 29             | 18             |
| 1783          | 9                 | 27             | 19             |
| 1784          | 12                | 33             | 23             |
| 1785          | 14                | 12             | 10             |
| 1786          | 12                | 26             | 3              |
| 1787          | 8                 | 23             | 8              |
| 1788          | 12                | 29             | 12             |
| 1789          | 8                 | 27             | 15             |
| 1790          | 15                | 24             | 20             |

In the list of deaths there are several perfons who live in other parishes, but have their burying-place in this. The inhabitants



inhabitants have decreased considerably within the last 30 years. This is owing to two or three small farms being thrown into one. Another cause of their decrease is, that no additional houses have been built in the village; since I came to the parish there are several houses fallen down and have not been rebuilt.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend paid is 91 bolls 4½ pecks of meal, 2 bolls bear, and L. 16: 13: 4 in money. The church was rebuilt in 1780; the manse in 1789; the Earl of Eglinton is patron.—The schoolmaster has 100 merks of salary. He has a school-house for teaching his scholars, but none for himself to dwell in. The late schoolmaster was an old man, and for many years had very few scholars; but there was a private teacher, who often had 40 or 50 scholars.—Though we are pestered with strolling beggars, yet none of the poor in the parish are allowed to go about. They are supported not by an assessment, but from the collections, and the interest of the stock, which has been occasionally saved from the collections, and other small casualties.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In the west end of the parish there is a colliery, yielding, according to the information I received from one of the proprietors, above 11,000 tons yearly. The greatest part of these coals is exported to Ireland from the port of Irvine.

There is only one village in the parish where the church is built. There are no manufactures carried on; the houses being very bad are low rented, which induces old or poor people to occupy them. The village is properly situated for manufactures, as the fields around it abound with springs of soft water. The Annock also runs very near it on the  
north



north side, and the water of Irvine at a very small distance upon the south. There are a few weavers in the village, and also in other parts of the parish, but these are employed in weaving such kinds of cloth as are used by the country people. The inhabitants both in the village and parish are in general sober, attentive, and industrious. There are at present 3 ale-houses in the village, and one in another part of the parish; but the business they have is very inconsiderable, the principal part of it arising from travellers. There are 20 heritors in the parish, but the property of two thirds of them is not extensive.

NUM.



## NUMBER XXXVIII.

## PARISH OF BOLTON.

## (COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN HAMILTON.*

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*Situation and Surface.*

THE parish of Bolton is in the presbytery of Haddington, and Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is very irregular in its boundaries and its dimensions; extending from the N. E. corner to the S. W. near 6 miles; and in breadth, at a medium, not above 1 mile and a quarter; it is broadest at the two ends. It is bounded by Haddington parish on the N.; on the E. by that branch of the Tyne running from Yester; on the S. by Yester parish; on the W. by Humbie and Salton, which last incloses it on the N. W. corner. There is a small rising, with a gentle declivity on either side, running from E. to W.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 359. At present it contains only 54 families; males, 106; females, 129; souls, 235; baptisms from 1780 to 1790, were 62; but 6 of these were from other



other parishes; burials from 1780 to 1790, were 40; but the session-clerk says he records only such as pay the tax to the Government. Marriages from 1775 to 1785, were 26.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is about L. 2400 Scots; the real rent is said to be about L. 1400 Sterling. The number of acres is about 2300, of which there are about 170 planted; most of the grounds are inclosed; some with strips of planting. There are three parks of Lethington in it, on the S. W. side of the water; two of which are yearly let for pasture; the third is made an orchard, by the last Lord Blantyre, with a small pleasure ground planted by the side of the water. The other parks of Lethington are in the parish of Haddington, in all between 300 or 400 acres; the walls of which the Duke of Lauderdale is said to have heightened about 4 feet, setting the stones on edge, when the Duke of York came to Scotland in Charles II's. reign, that he might show a deer-park in Scotland. The parish is divided into 11 farms; 2 of which are occupied by the proprietors; the rest, partly by residing, partly by non-residing tenants. There are 28 ploughs, 83 horses, 280 cows, and about 6 score sheep; about 150 acres are in wheat; about 120 in bear; 230 in oats; 130 in pease and beans; 200 in clover; 190 in fallow. I am told that bear is not cultivated so much as formerly, for the barley brought from the E. coast of England is found to be of a better quality; and the tenants rather give two furrows to their oats. There are few turnip or potatoes raised, or lint sown, except what is given to servants or cottagers, for carrying in stacks. The tenants are sometimes subjected to kain and carriage of coals, and thirlage to mills; others pay com-  
monly



monly money for grinding, or barley making; and even in some places, thirlage is converted into money. There are very few tradesmen. Ploughmen have ordinarily L. 14 Sterling a-year. Prices are regulated by the Haddington market. Fuel is chiefly coal.

*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The stipend is  $17\frac{1}{10}$  bolls wheat,  $34\frac{2}{10}$  bolls bear,  $69\frac{2}{10}$  bolls oats, and L. 9 Sterling, which comprehends vicarage tithes, communion elements, and L. 20 Scots for grafs. The glebe is 4 acres. The church is an old building, very thick in the walls. Lord Blantyre is patron. There are 5 heritors, one of whom resides. —The schoolmaster's salary is L. 100 Scots.—There are no vagrants in the parish; and the poor and other necessary charges, are maintained ordinarily by the collections, mortcloths, and an hearse, purchased by the session, and let for hire.

*Antiquities.*—In the little village of Bolton, there remain some vestiges of an house, and a park on the W. side of it, still called the orchard, about 4 acres, which is said to have belonged to John Hepburn, a friend of Bothwell's, who fled with him from Dunbar, when Bothwell escaped from the battle of Falside, in Queen Mary's time. It seems that Bolton came then into the possession of Maitland of Lethington, who is the ancestor of the family of Lauderdale.—There is a place called still Chesters, where there are vestiges of a camp between 5 and 6 acres, with a rampart and ditch; but there is no record concerning it.



## NUMBER XXXIX.

## PARISH OF FEARN,

## (COUNTY OF ROSS.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN URQUHART.*

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*Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**F**EARN is evidently derived from the arn or alder tree, in Gaelic *Fearnn*, as there were many of these trees growing at Mid-fearn, in the parish of Eddertown, in this neighbourhood, where the foundation of the abbacy was in the 12th century first laid, and intended to be built. But the churchmen in those days finding the lands there confined, and not so fertile as they would incline, desisted from their purpose, and got a new bull from the Pope, for building the abbacy where it now stands, in a fertile and extensive plain of good land. It was founded here by Farquhard, or Farquhar, first Earl of Ross, in the reign of Alexander II.—The parish is of no great extent, being only 2 English miles in length, and nearly of the same breadth. It is bounded on the S. by the parish of Nigg; on the W. by Loggie (Easter); on the N. by Tain; and on the E. and S. E. by Tarbat and the Murray frith.—It is situated within the county of Ross, in the presbytery of Tain, and in the Synod of Ross.—The soil is a deep loam,  
in



in the centre of the parish, about the abbacy-church. The loans of Fearn to the S. and the lands of Allan to the W. are a deep clay, the N. and E. part is gravelish, the S. E. and S. is light and sandy. The face of the parish is nearly flat, with the exception of a few eminences, that are generally laboured, called, by way of distinction, Hills. About three-fourths are arable, the rest partly green, and partly covered with heath.—The air is generally dry and wholesome, but the climate has varied much of late years, especially since 1782. Fevers are the most general diseases among the common people; and, for the most part, at some particular seasons prove mortal, especially to those advanced in years.

*Lakes, Fish, &c.*—The loch of Eye is above 2 miles long, and about half a mile broad. No fish are to be seen in it but eels; some of them have been got of a good size, weighing 4, 5 and 6 pounds. From this loch proceeds the water to the mills of Fearn, and in its course forms 2 lesser lochs, in one of which there is moss and green plots, in which ducks, teals and speikintares (which last are like sea-gulls, but of a smaller size) hatch their young, and which the swans and wild geese frequent a great part of the winter and spring.—The Murray frith lies to the S. E. of this parish. The coast for about a mile is flat and sandy, on which the fishing town of Balintore lies, and Hiltown, another fishing town about half a mile to the east of it; there it is rocky and high for about a mile more. The fish caught are chiefly haddocks, whittings, cod and red codlings, skate, cuddies, a few mackrel and flounders, dog-fish, lobsters, crabs, &c. About 20 or 30 years ago, there were great quantities of all the above kinds, and sold very cheap; 120 haddocks for a peck of oats, and 160 for a peck of bear, or 6 d. and other fish in proportion; but for 7 or 8 years past, fish has



been scarcer, and consequently very high priced. Last year and this also, haddocks sold for 1 d. each, and even at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. and 2 d. for the largest. It is true, that the few they get now are much larger than those taken when they got great quantities; but these they had near the shore, and might be, and were taken there twice and thrice a-day; but now they seldom get them, and must go farther for them, sometimes the length of Helmsdale in Sutherland. The greatest number of haddocks and cods used to be had in winter, and first of spring; and most whittings, codlings, flounders and cuddies, in summer and harvest. They are caught with nets, and used to be sold chiefly in the parish, and at Tain. Sometimes they went with boat-loads of fish to Dingwall, Inverness, &c. The sea-weed is used on the coast for manure.

*Quarries.*—There is a soft freestone at Pitkery, of an inferior quality, in the east end of the parish, but little used; a pretty good freestone at Balintore; a good deal of it used for building; but at Catboll, in the rocky part of the coast, there is a remarkable good freestone, little inferior to any in Scotland.

*Quadrupeds and Birds.*—We have hares, foxes, rabbits, eagles, hawks, ducks, teals, partridges, owls, ravens, rooks, plover, gray plover, with migratory birds, as the swallow and cuckoo, swans and wild geese, &c. The swallow and cuckoo appear about the beginning of summer, the latter departs early in August, and the former in September. The gray or wild geese appear about the end of August, and continue through the parish, and especially at the loch of Eye, till the end of April, when they depart, to hatch their young ones in the West Highlands. The swans appear about the end of October, and continue about the loch  
of



of Eye, the south loch running from it, almost all the winter and spring, except when a great frost locks up the loch from them.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 1898. It appears that the population of the parish has increased considerably since the 1742, there being at least a fourth more people in it now than when the church fell at that period; yet they have neither increased or diminished any thing to speak of for these 20 years past. On the last day of April 1791, there were in the parish about 1600 persons, of whom were,

|                        |   |   |       |
|------------------------|---|---|-------|
| Under 10 years of age, | - | - | 385   |
| Between 10 and 20,     | - | - | 399   |
| Above 20, unmarried,   | - | - | 408   |
| Widowers and widows,   | - | - | 98    |
| Married,               | - | - | 310   |
|                        |   |   | <hr/> |
|                        |   |   | 1600  |

Of whom there are 66 from 50 years to 60, 75 from 60 to 70, 46 from 70 to 80, and 9 from 80 to 90 years old.

*Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, for the last 8 Years.*

| Years.                | Baptisms. | Marriages. | Burials. |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| 1783                  | 19        | 3          | 2        |
| 1784                  | 29        | 7          | 25       |
| 1785                  | 36        | 8          | 29       |
| 1786                  | 31        | 5          | 4        |
| 1787                  | 19        | 3          | 12       |
| 1788                  | 36        | 8          | 4        |
| 1789                  | 32        | 12         | 11       |
| 1790                  | 36        | 13         | 5        |
|                       | <hr/>     | <hr/>      | <hr/>    |
| Yearly average nearly | 238       | 59         | 92       |
| may be                | 45        | 9          | 25, if   |
|                       |           |            | the      |



the register was complete.—There was no register kept here preceding 1783, when there was an act of Parliament for taking a small duty of 3 d. for every baptism, marriage and burial registrated in any parish. This act is rather defective, in that it does not oblige each parish to register; from which defect, not only many parishes, but, as is said, some counties, such as Sutherland, keep no register at all in any of their parishes; and even where such registers are kept, those that do not incline to register, and pay 3 d. are not obliged to register at all.—There are 10 heritors or proprietors, 2 of whom only reside. The inhabitants are generally farmers and cottagers, or crofters, except those afterwards mentioned. Besides the fishermen, there are 16 weavers, with 5 apprentices, 13 tailors, with 4 apprentices, 14 shoemakers, with 4 apprentices, 3 smiths, with 3 apprentices, 5 joiners or wrights, with 3 apprentices, 2 coopers, 2 masons, 1 turner or wheel-wright, 1 merchant, and 8 millers; all of whom are employed in working for the inhabitants of the parish, and not in manufacturing articles for sale. All are of the Established Church, except about 6 families of Seceders. There may be 380 houses; 30 new ones within these 10 years, and about 12 pulled down. At an average, each family contains 4 or 5 persons, and each marriage produces from 5 to 7 children.—There are only 3 small towns or villages, and about 100 persons in each. In the village of Fearn are 2 mills, (formerly the Abbot's \*), paying 12 chalders of rent yearly; also 6 farmers, 1 distillery of whisky, 1 merchant's shop, a smith's shop, a turner's shop, and a public-house, selling drams, &c. The village of Hiltown consists chiefly of fishermen. There are 3 fishing boats in it, with 6 men in each. That of Balintore also consists of fishermen, with 3 fishing

\* The Abbot's income behaved to be very considerable, as his lands and thirlage now amount to above L. 900 Sterling.



ing boats and a coble. There are 3 houses in which drams are sold.

*Wages and Prices.*—A farmer's servant receives 6 bolls of oat and bear meal, for his meat, 2 bolls, 3 firlots of bear or oat meal, for his wages, and 6 s. or 8 s. for shoes, with 1 boll for the produce of his ashes, together with a certain quantity of ground to raise potatoes on, which helps nearly to maintain himself and his family for half a-year, if his wife is industrious. They can live comfortably, and bring up their children decently. A single lad in the house, gets from L. 2 to L. 3 a year; female servants get from L. 1 to L. 1, 10 s.; the day's wages for husbandry are 1 s. a-day without, or 6 d. with meat; women, at 6 d. or 3 d. with meat; other work, and handicraftsmen, are generally paid by the piece.—Beef and mutton sell at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. the pound, and in spring, and beginning of summer, at 3 d. and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d.; veal at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. pork at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. and 3 d. the pound; hens at 6 d. ducks at 6 d. chickens at 2 d. and eggs at 8, 10, 12, for 1 d. according to the season; butter at 6 d. 7 d. and 8 d. the pound of 21 ounces.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 4037:12:11 Scots; the real rent, about 2200 bolls. The rent of the land is 10 s. 15 s. and even L. 1 the acre. The principal crops are oats and barley, a considerable quantity of peas, and some rye, with a few beans, and a little wheat, about 50 or 60 acres of clover and rye-grass, but little flax or hemp. Oats and peas are sown from the middle of March to the end of April; barley, from the end of April to the end of May. There is little wheat here, and what is, is generally sown together with rye in October; potatoes, from the end of March to the end of May, of which above 1000 bolls are raised annually. The  
harvest



harvest begins generally about the end of August, and ends, in good years, about the middle of October. There are about 800 oxen, and it is believed 500 horses, of the small Scots or Highland kind; though the few gentlemen in the parish, use horses of a better size. There may be 150 milk cows; about 1000 sheep of the small Scots kind, their wool neither coarse nor very fine. There may be about 450 swine sold annually from this parish, to Tain, Cromarty, Fort George, and Inverness, at various prices; the smaller kind from 8s. 10s. 15s. to L. 1, and the larger from L. 1 to L. 2, 10s. There may be about 200 oxen bought into this parish annually, and about 250 oxen and cows sold yearly at Whitsunday and Martinmas.—There are 140 ploughs, generally 6 oxen in the plough; some use 8, several use 4 oxen and 2 horses. It is the old Scots plough that is used, with a few exceptions. But little of the parish is inclosed. The produce is much greater than is sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants; above two-thirds of the whole is exported out of the parish, in oats and oat-meal, to Cromarty, Inverness, and Leith. But the barley is partly distilled in the neighbourhood, in Ferintosh, and the adjacent country. Monopoly of farms has taken place here; there being instances in this and the neighbouring parishes, of individuals farming what was formerly possessed by 4, 6, 8, and 10 tenants. There are little or no perennial services performed by any tenants or undertenants in this parish. There were several days of servitude about 20 or 30 years ago, such as manuring and ploughing the master's farm for 2 or 3 days in the spring; cutting down his corns, and leading his peats and turf, for as many days; but all these are now converted.

*Stipend, School, and Poor.*—The living consists of 128 bolls of barley, with 100 merks Scots, for small teinds, and



and 100 merks for communion elements, with a manse and glebe of about 5 acres. The King is patron. A part of the old abbey church was repaired at a considerable expence in 1772, and is now used again as the place of worship. The manse was built a considerable time before the Revolution, and was raised and repaired once and again; the last reparation was in 1782.—The state of the school is but indifferent. The schoolmaster has only 100 merks Scots from the heritors, and the only perquisite is L. 20 Scots from the session, as precentor and session-clerk, with a trifle he receives for each marriage and baptism. The encouragement being so little, we sometimes want one altogether. Some boys or girls, in their parents houses, begin to teach for a trifle of quarter payment. There may be about 100 scholars among them all.—The number of poor is 45. The annual sum expended for their relief, is L. 10 Sterling, produced by the collections in the church, and the interest of a small sum appropriated for them. They are not destitute poor, or such as do not work generally for themselves; but many of them being old and sickly, get in proportion to their need. But they are chiefly supplied by the charity and benevolence of the gentry and farmers of the parish. There are not above 6 on the roll, who at any time beg in or out of the parish. Lady Ann Stewart, spouse to Baron David Ross of Balnagown, mortified 3000 merks Scots for the use of the religious poor, within the presbytery of Tain, and left the ministers of it patrons of said fund. The interest of it is divided once in the 2 years, and the different parishes in the bounds get in proportion to the character of the religious poor in each, so far as it will go; some parishes 30, some 40, some 50 merks at each division. Sometimes one parish will get more, sometimes another; but not designed for beggars, but for aged and reduced people of a good character. And  
the



the people on the list in each parish, get some 5, some 10, some 15, or more merks, as they are judged deserving, as far as it will go, for life.

*Antiquities and Curiosities.*—There are several Druidical temples in this parish. The abbacy is one of the most ancient buildings here. It is said to have been first made up of mud. The principal part of it was 99 feet in length, within walls,  $25\frac{1}{2}$  feet in breadth, and the walls 24 feet high above the ground. The abbacy was not only the place of worship before the Reformation, but ever since, until October 1742, when, on a sudden, in time of public worship, the roof fell in. There were 36 persons killed instantly, by what fell in of the roof and slate, on that melancholy occasion; 8 more died soon after.—The castle of Lochlin, in the N. E. corner of the parish, is another remarkable building. It is said to be of 500 years standing. It stands upon an eminence, about 1 mile N. E. of the loch of Eye, and about 6 miles E. from Tain, and is indeed one of the most conspicuous objects in this country. It was certainly built as a place of security against sudden incursions in the days of violence. Its shape resembles 2 figures, nearly square, joined together by the corners, in which junction there is a stair-case to the top. The lesser one, which looks towards the W. being about 20, and the greater, which looks towards the E. about 38 feet square. The castle is 60 feet high. It is fortified with 3 large turrets, of which, 1 stands upon the lesser square, and 2 upon the greater. These turrets are each of them capable of holding 3 or more men with ease, and in each of them are 5 small round holes, of about 4 inches diameter, with 3 larger above them, of a quadrangular form. The latter, it is imagined, were intended for the sentries or watchmen to see through, and the others for shooting of arrows. The  
outer



outer door of the kitchen was made of strong bars of iron, as thick as an ordinary man's leg, and the windows were closed with small grates or twisted stentions of iron, so that it may be readily supposed that it was almost impregnable at the period in which it was erected.—There is another very ancient castle, that of Cadboll, equally old, if not older than either the abbacy or the castle of Lochlin. There are little remains of it now, but 2 or 3 vaults. There is a very singular and remarkable tradition concerning this castle, that though it was inhabited for ages, yet never any person died in it; and many of those who lived in it, wished to be brought out of it, as they longed for death, especially Lady May, who resided there about 100 years ago; being long sick, and longing for death, she desired to be brought out of her castle, which at last was accordingly done, and no sooner did she come out of it, than she expired!

*Fuel.*—The principal disadvantage under which this parish labours, is the scarcity of fuel. The common people burn turf, a few peats, and some heath, carried from the distance of 8 miles; there being little or no moss in the parish, but that adjacent to the loch of Eye, and it is generally so overflowed with water, by a servitude of the mills of Fearn, that the proprietor can seldom get any peats out of it. The few heritors, and the better sort of farmers, now burn coal. But it is of the greatest disadvantage to the parish, to want fuel, or not to get coal at an easy rate; for it costs generally 2 s. 2 d. the barrel; and the farmers and cottagers spend all the summer, and a part of the harvest, in procuring some bad turf.

*Eminent Men.*—It said by some that the famous lawyer, Sir George Mackenzie, King's Advocate in King



Charles II.'s time, was born in the castle of Lochslin ; but there is no certainty of it. Farquhar, the first Earl of Ross, and founder of the abbacy, was buried in this parish, as were several others of the Earls of Ross. There is an area in the abbacy, appropriated for a burial place for all of the name of Ross ; almost all of whom in the north, bury there. General Charles Ross of Balnagown, who was advanced to the highest military honours, and who had a principal hand in 2 very bloody wars against the King of France, for the liberty of Europe, under the auspices of William and Anne, was buried here. This man was equally famous for the arts of peace and war. He died at Bath, in the 66th year of his age, 1732. There is also buried here, the valiant and brave Admiral Sir John Ross of Balnagown.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are sober, regular, decent, and industrious ; they are also generous and humane. Their condition, however, might be ameliorated considerably, could they have coals imported duty free, and some heavy multures removed, which hinders the improvement of land, and checks any attempts for the establishing of manufactures. None are obliged to leave the parish for want of employment. Some few enlist yearly as soldiers. Many enlisted in the late General Fraser's regiment, and many also in the 73d, and some in the 42d and 75th regiments. The people are generally healthy and robust, and rather above the common stature. There may be 12 in the parish above 6 feet high.—The common people speak the Gaelic language, though many of them now understand the English. The names of places seem to be wholly derived from the Gaelic, and are expressive of their situation, occupation of the inhabitants, quality of the place or soil, &c.—The lands in this parish  
do



do not yield near one half of the crops they produced 20 or 30 years ago, owing to the cold seasons. Since the year 1781, there has been nothing like a good crop among us; no peas, especially, came to any account since. It is now indeed idle, and appears fabulous, to relate the crops raised here 30 or 40 years ago. The seasons were formerly so warm, that the people behoved to unyoke their ploughs as soon as the sun rose, when sowing barley; and persons yet living, tell, that in travelling through the meadows in the loans of Fearn, in some places drops of honey were seen as the dew on the long grass and plantain, sticking to their shoes as they walked along in a May morning; and also in other parts, their shoes were oiled as with cream, going through such meadows. Honey and bee-hives were then very plenty, which, since the year 1782, are like to be wholly lost, and extirpated out of the country. Cattle, butter and cheese, were then very plenty and cheap. There are people yet living in this parish, who have bought young oxen for 15 s. 19 s. and L. 1, which now would cost L. 4 Sterling each; good butter sold at 2 s. 6 d. and 3 s. the stone; cheese at 10 d. the stone; and victual at 2 s. 6 d. the boll. Some of the abbots of Fearn's victual was only valued at half a merk Scots the boll; and a gentleman in this parish, about or within 30 years ago, had a process for getting the current price for some of the abbots teind-bolls, which was brought before the House of Lords, and he lost it, being fixed at the old price of half a merk the boll.—In the years 1782 and 1783, victual got up to an enormous height, hitherto unknown in this country; being sold from 24 s. to 28 s. the boll. The poor were partly relieved by the wisdom and generosity of the Barons of Exchequer, who sent 300 bolls of victual to the Sheriff of this county, to be distributed *gratis* among the poor of the different parishes, as the first relief; and another



ther vessel with so much, to be sold at a cheaper rate than any other in the country; of both which, this parish got their proportion, which was a seasonable relief. And Providence was kind in those days of scarcity, in providing plenty of fish from the sea, so that not only the ordinary fishermen caught abundance, and sold them to the poor until next crop grew up, but many poor people joined, got different cobbles, and caught a quantity of cuddies, red codlings, and flounders, near the shore; also an extraordinary quantity of fine cockles was had near Tain, on this side of the Dornoch frith, which was almost a miraculous supply and support to this and all the neighbouring parishes; so that hundreds of men and women, with their horses, were seen daily coming home with great burdens and loads of the best cockles, in such abundance as they never appeared before nor since. Many boat-loads were carried to distant places. No one died for want in this parish. But in the year 1740, in the like scarcity, many starved.—There is no kind of manufacture established here, but there is a good deal of hemp spun yearly, from the manufacture at Cromarty, which will circulate L. 400 Sterling. There will also be drawn about L. 150 Sterling yearly, for spinning lint. The people have become much more extravagant in their clothing and apparel, of late years, buying these chiefly from the shops, whereas formerly they only wore their own country-made cloth. The farmers have never yet recovered the distress of 1782. Many of them were reduced thereby. Luxury has crept in among all ranks since 1746, and all articles are now advanced in price. For instance, servants could buy a pair of shoes in those days for 10 d. which now cost them from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. a pair. In this parish, the people are far from market. There is no demand ordinarily for the victual here, until all is sold, not only in the southern counties, but even in the



the western part of this same county; and the tenants being in straits for money at Martinmas, often sell the few bolls they can dispose of, at 10s.; they seldom get more for it till Whitsunday, which is the time the price generally rises. Since the seasons have varied so much, and turned so cold, they are at a great disadvantage for want of grafs; for the common leys and meadows that used to yield grafs, which might be cut down by scythes, now a-days yield but a very scanty pasture for any cattle or sheep. The average rent of farms was 16, 20, and 25 bolls, the greater ones 30 and 35 bolls each, with a very few exceptions of 40, 45, and 50 bolls. But now several have farms of 70, 80, 120, and 130 bolls, so that the number of farmers is diminishing; which, together with the annual emigration from the parish, is the reason that the population has not increased for several years. Several young men and women go annually to service from this, especially to Cromarty, Inverness, Moray, and Aberdeen shires, and some to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, and some of the Colonies; some young men after, and some before they have learned any handicraft. Property in land cannot be said to be often changing, except in a few instances. It is to be observed, that as there is an union of farms, so is there of estates in this parish; 1 heritor possessing what 2, 3, and 4 possessed 30 or 40 years ago. The last crop was generally the scantiest in quantity, and especially as to the quality of the barley since 1782; owing to the cold summer and harvest. So that, in one word, the only means whereby the condition of the people could be ameliorated, next to better seasons, would be, for the Legislature to allow coals duty free.



## NUMBER XL.

## PARISH OF KNOCKANDOW,

(COUNTY OF MORAY.)

*By the Rev. Mr FRANCIS GRANT.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.*

**K**NOCKANDOW has its name from two Celtic words, *Knock*, signifying 'hill,' and *Dow*, 'black.' It is situated in the county of Moray, presbytery of Aberdour and Synod of Moray, about 10 miles in length, and, at an average, 2 in breadth. It is bounded on the S. and S. W. by the parishes of Inveraven and Aberdour, from which it is separated by the river Spey, one of the most rapid in Scotland; on the E. by Rothes, on the N. by Birnie and Dallas, on the W. by Edinkilly and Cromdale.—The country is hilly; the soil either deep moss or sandy gravel; the air dry and healthy.—Spey is the only river connected with the parish, which produces salmon; but owing to cruives, few of them get up this length. The hills are covered with heath, and the river-side with birch, oak and alder. The many small rivulets that descend from the hills, are frequently in the months of February and November swelled by the rains, overflow their banks, and do considerable harm. This happened particularly in 1783, when



when a water-spout, there is reason to believe, fell in the adjacent hills.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's return, the numbers were 1267. The population is rather less than about 25 years ago, many having gone to Aberdeen. The number of all ages at present is about 1500; of whom 600 are males, and 900 females. The annual average of births is 40, of marriages 12. The number of souls under 10 is 460, and from 70 to 100 is 36.

*Agriculture.*—The grain principally cultivated is black oats, big, or Scotch bear, some rye, turnip and potatoes. There is very little artificial grass. Seed-time generally begins in the end of March, and continues through the whole of April. Harvest here is in August, September and October. The land-rent of the parish is about L. 2000. The fishings produce about L. 10 a-year. The number of horses 300, of cattle 3000, of sheep 5000. There may be about 150 ploughs, all of the Scotch kind, except one. The last in general are very bad. The very best arable land is 14 s. the acre; the general size of farms about 30 acres.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, is L. 85 Sterling. Sir James Grant of Grant is patron. The church was built in 1757, and the manse in 1767. There are 4 heritors.—The number of poor is 20. The collections for their relief are about L. 3; and the fines of delinquents, with what arises from a mortification, may amount to L. 7.

*Prices and Wages.*—Provisions formerly were very cheap. A fat ox might have been got for L. 1, 5 s. and a sheep for 3 s. 4 d.; a boll of oat-meal for 6 s. 8 d. Now, beef and  
mutton



mutton fell at 3 d. the pound, meal at 14 s. the boll, and fowls, which sold at 2 d. cost 6 d. and 7 d.—A labourer will earn 6 d. a-day in summer, and 4 d. in winter, including victuals. A wright 8 d. a mason 10 d. and a tailor 4 d. besides victuals. A common labourer, when married, could never maintain his family, if he had not a small croft. This description of men, in general, is in great poverty. A man servant earns from L. 4, 10 s. to L. 5 a-year, and a woman L. 1 : 13 : 4.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The Gaelic was generally spoken here till about 50 years ago.—Peats are the only fuel.—The general size of the people is about 5 feet 6 inches, and their complexion black. Many of them are very deficient in industry, but economical. They are fond of a military life, and prefer the Highland regiments.—The roads in the parish were formerly well made, and kept in good repair; but, for some time past, they have been greatly neglected. The people, sensible of this neglect, pay the statute-labour in kind, and work, it may be supposed, as little as possible. Were a more liberal plan of management adopted, and the statute-labour commuted, it would be more agreeable, and of much advantage. The people here have no idea of turnpikes, or their advantages.—In 1782, there was neither a sufficiency of seed nor bread, and had not Government interfered, numbers must have starved; but the supply granted, relieved, in a great degree, their wants.—The parish, in general, is uninclosed. The people are sensible of the advantage of inclosures, but they are little encouraged, except by one of the heritors. The condition of the people might be much meliorated, by granting them leases for 38 years, and a lifetime, by encouraging inclosures, and giving them good examples of husbandry.



NUMBER XLI.

PARISH OF DALRYMPLE,

(COUNTY OF AIR.)

*By the Rev. Mr EBENEZER WALKER.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

**D**ALRYMPLE appears to be a Gaelic word, *Dalrymole*, and signifies 'the valley of the slaughter of the king.' Here, it is supposed, Coilus king of the Britons fell. This parish is in the presbytery of Air, and Synod of Glasgow and Air.—The lower part of it is delightfully situated, and is valley-ground, surrounded on both sides with little green hills. Near the river Doon, for the space of 5 or 6 miles S. E. the situation is beautiful. The length of the parish is 6 or 7 miles; its breadth, in several places, is 2 Scotch miles. Dalrymple is bounded by the parishes of Dalmellington, Coylton, Maybole, Air and Kirkmichael.—The general appearance of the country is partly flat, and partly hilly; part of the soil is fertile, and part barren; part of it deep, and part shallow. Some of it well cultivated and manured by lime or marl. There is variety of mineral springs and lochs. There is only one river called Doon, which flows from Loch Dune. After a course upwards of 24 miles of various windings and turnings, it dis-



charges itself into the sea. The river is stored with trout, salmon, pike and eel. The salmon-fishing here lets at present for L. 13. This species of fish is sold in summer for 6d. the pound, the season in which it is in its highest perfection. There is freestone, marl and lime.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's returns, the numbers were 439. The number of souls at present is 380.

|                      |     |                   |                             |     |
|----------------------|-----|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Males,               | -   | 170               | Farmers and their families, | 235 |
| Females,             | -   | 210               | Weavers,                    | - 6 |
| Examinable persons,  | 260 | Smiths,           | -                           | 2   |
| Annual births, about | 17  | Shoemakers,       | -                           | 3   |
| — marriages, do.     | 8   | Wrights,          | -                           | 1   |
| — burials, do.       | 11  | Tailors,          | -                           | 1   |
| Farmers,             | 40  | Inhabited houses, | -                           | 86  |

No sectaries. The proportion between the annual births and the whole population is as 1 to 24; between the marriages and the whole population as 1 to 54; between the deaths and the whole population as 1 to 40.

*Agriculture.*—The parish, for the most part, supplies itself with provisions, and sometimes exports. A considerable proportion of the grounds is employed in raising corn, roots, potatoes, and cabbage. Only a few acres are cultivated in raising hemp or flax. There are many acres, both in sown grass and pasture, but more in pasture. The farmers here commonly sow between the middle of March and the end of April; and reap between the middle of August and the end of September. The valued rent is L. 1980, 1s. 1d. Scotch.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The church was built in 1764; the manse in 1728; and both of them were lately repaired.

The



The value of the living is about L. 76 or L. 80. The glebe is extremely small. There are 5 heritors. The King is patron.—The number of poor on the roll is 7. The yearly amount of the collections for their relief, is about L. 11. There is also about L. 20, for their maintenance, in the Bank of Air. No parish in the presbytery has its poor better supplied.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—This parish lay formerly under disadvantages, which are now, in a great measure, removed, by means of inclosures and good roads.—There are 3 old castles, the most remarkable of which is called Barbiston. A battle is said to have been fought between Dick of Barbiston and Kennedy, the latter of whom was killed. And from the stone which killed him, the place is reported to have been called *Barbarous Stone*, or Barbiston. Some stones of the old vaults were found, and bear the dates of 1340 and 1345. A spear, and several large bones, which dissolved when exposed to the air, were also found near this spot.—The price of provisions has increased much within these few years. A day's wages for a labourer in husbandry, are generally from 10 d. to 1 s. 5 d. the day. The wages of a common labourer, when married, are from L. 3 to L. 3, 10 s. in the half year, and are found little enough to bring up a family. The fuel commonly used is coal and peat. Very little wood is used. The price of the coal and peat is nearly the same, from 4 d. to 6 d. the load. The people in general are disposed to industry, and are economical.



## NUMBER XLII.

## UNITED PARISHES OF DUTHIL AND ROTHIE-MURCHUS.

(COUNTIES OF MURRAY AND INVERNESS.)

*By the Rev. Mr PATRICK GRANT.*

## D U T H I L.

*Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE ancient name of the parish of Duthil was *Glen-chearnich*, signifying, in Gaelic, “Glen of Heroes;” from various exploits of the inhabitants in expelling the Cummins from that part of the country, as well as from their obstinate defence of it, afterwards against the depredations of the Highlanders. The modern name Duthil is from *Deogb-dhall*, “excellent valley;” the Kirk-town being situated upon a rising ground, commanding the prospect of a valley about 1000 acres. The parish is in the county and Synod of Murray, and presbytery of Abernethy; extends 14 miles from E. to W. and is 10 miles in breadth, is bounded by the parish of Moy on the N. by Alvey on the W. by Abernethy on the S. and by Inverallen on the E. The general appearance is hilly, with  
fir,



fir, birch and alder, on the skirts of the hills; but beyond them it is covered with heath, and is rocky. It is divided nearly into two equal parts by the river Dulnan, signifying in Gaelic, "floody," running from W. to E. about 14 miles. On both sides of which lies a great part of the arable ground. The soil towards the lower end of the parish, which widens into a flat for several miles, frequently overflowed by the Dulnan, is deep. Towards the upper end, and at a distance from the river, shallow, yet fertile through the whole. The climate is extremely healthy, and the most common distempers are nervous fevers, and swellings in the joints, occasioned, most probably, by the vicissitudes of heat and cold, which occasion too frequent and imprudent changes of warmer clothing for the Highland garb. There are several mineral springs in the parish, two of which have been serviceable in the gravel.

*Animals, &c.*—The quadrupeds are of the common kind in the Highlands. Some of the horses are of the large labouring species. The Highland garrons, as they are called, though not so sufficient for labour, are more adapted to the lower class of people, easily supported, by running out in the fields most part of winter. This country, once stored with the finest woolled kind of sheep, has for some years been over-run with the coarse Linton breed, which ought to be extirpated from every country. The parish abounds with grouse, partridge and black-game, and a vast variety of the smaller kind of birds. The wood-cock appears in October, and disappears in April.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers in Duthil and Rothiemurchus were 1785. In the



the earlier periods of society here, when only the skirts of the hills were inhabited, the lower grounds being covered with wood, and infested by wolves and other ravenous animals, the population bore a nearer proportion to what it now is, than it did for a series of years previous to the rebellion in 1745. Since that memorable period, the population has decreased considerably, owing chiefly to two causes. The opportunity afforded young adventurers to traverse the field of fortune, and throwing land into large farms. The amount of the present population of Duthil is 830, all of the established church; males, 372; females, 458; annual average of births, 70; deaths, 15; marriages, 15; souls under 10, 150; from 10 to 20, 244; from 20 to 50, 295; from 50 to 70, 98; from 70 to 100, 43; farmers and families, 54; household servants, 3; labouring servants, male and female, 230; one student at college. Formerly most of the gentlemen's sons and of farmers studied at college; but for 40 years past, they have become adventurers abroad. Number of persons born in other parishes in Scotland, 141; number of gentry, 5. About 20 years ago there was a considerable number of very creditable gentlemen with families in this parish, most of whom have now become extinct; and the few remaining are soon likely to become so, their sons preferring various pursuits abroad; batchelors, 3; each marriage, at an average, produces 7 children; inhabited houses, 166; persons at an average to each inhabited house, 5.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Cattle, at an average, are 1022; sheep, 3424; horses, 315; ploughs of the Scotch kind, and a few English, 105; carts, 260; arable acres, 2183; all under corn and potatoes, excepting a few under cabbage, turnip and sown grass; acres in meadow-grass, 2467;



2467; acres in moss and moor adjoining to the arable and meadow, 4650. What quantity of ground lies waste, or in common, being the hilly part of the parish, I cannot ascertain. At least a third of the parish is under wood. The parish supplies itself abundantly with provisions. The only articles of export are black cattle and sheep. The real rent of the parish is about L. 1100 Sterling. There are but a few inclosures in the parish. The people murmur exceedingly at inclosures, their cattle having been accustomed to range promiscuously through the year, excepting in the summer season, and while the corns are on the ground.

*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The value of the living, including 2 glebes, is L. 67. The church was built in 1400, repaired in 1770. The manse was built in 1704, rebuilt in 1763. Sir James Grant is patron, and the only heritor.—There are 2 schools, a parochial one, and the other established by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The salary of the parochial school is 100 merks. The salary and perquisites will amount to about L. 12 Sterling. The number of scholars during the winter season is about 30. In former years, when a number of gentlemen's families resided, there were usually about 70 scholars, some of whom were sent yearly to the University. But the salary is now so inadequate to the expence of living, that no proper schoolmaster can be had; so that the gentlemen are obliged to send their children, at a great expence, to distant counties to school. The salary of the Society school is L. 9 Sterling, with suitable conveniencies, furnished by the tenants, in whose district the school is stationed. The number of scholars, at an average, does not exceed 20.—The number of poor receiving



ving alms is 16. The annual contributions for their relief do not exceed L. 5. There is no established fund.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—The price of beef, for a few years, has stood at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. the lb. formerly at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. ; mutton now at 3 d. formerly 1 d. ; butter, 12 s. formerly 5 s. the stone ; cheese from 4 s. to 6 s. formerly 2 s. 6 d. Days wages of labourers in husbandry, and common labourers, when married, 1 s. which is sufficient to maintain a family. The fuel used is wood and peat, and is the most expensive fuel in any part of Scotland, requiring the labour of the whole summer. Thus the farmer is under the necessity of neglecting the proper business of the farm. The usual wages of male domestic servants are L. 6 a-year ; female servants L. 3. They are entitled to several articles besides wages, and engage only for a half-year, which is very distressing to the farmer. If some mode is not adopted to regulate the wages of servants, such as restricting their wages to a reasonable sum, by the universal consent of counties, the farmer must unavoidably fail. Servants during the summer, stroll about idly, and live upon their former half-year's wages, knowing that the farmer must yield to the highest terms when the harvest approaches. The idea of preventing, or even discouraging servants from going to the south country, so universally suggested, approaches too near to oppression. Servants confess that their wages are beyond the profits of their labour, but when 1 or 2 farmers are necessitated for labourers, they are obliged to give high fees, and from this view numbers of servants lie in waiting. The increase in value of saleable articles might seemingly admit of an augmentation of rent. But letting the Hill-improvements to separate possessors, having diminished these articles, by reducing the number of cattle, and these too pinched in their pasture, still the same number of servants



vants is necessary. It would therefore be of infinite advantage to the possessors of low farms to have the Hill-improvements also in their possession, or portioned out upon the common pasture, though they should pay the addition of rent. This observation, if applicable only to a particular district, would be foreign to the purpose; but it extends to a vast track of country; to the western districts of Aberdeen, Banff and Murray shires; and a great part of Inverness and Perth shires, which properly comprehend the Highlands of Scotland. Servants wages having increased so prodigiously, it is more advantageous to the farmer to employ cottagers or day labourers, for the purposes of husbandry, where fuel and other necessities can be conveniently had; but where it is otherwise, the difficulty of collecting fuel for the tenant's own use, and also for the cottagers, which would be necessary, if employed in his service, would be unsurmountable. Employing cottagers or day labourers universally in this way, being generally married, would have the good effect of increasing population, as well as subjecting servants to more tolerable behaviour, where they must necessarily be had. Still there is one particular absolutely necessary to be observed, which, if not attended to, will be an unsurmountable bar to the farmer's industry. It is the proper regulation of the price of corn and meal; when meal can be had under 16 s. a boll, (144 lb. Averdupois,) the different classes of labourers become idly disposed. The wages of 1 half-year will maintain them idle a great part of the year.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The roads and bridges have for some years been kept in repair, by statute labour exacted in kind. The road from Grantown to Aviemore, 13 miles in length, was repaired in 1779 to 24 feet in breadth, being formerly 12 feet, by the country people,



at the request of the proprietor Sir James Grant, without affecting the statute labour of the year. Of which road there are 9 miles extending through the southern limits of the parish, therefore, of no material advantage to the people of this country, chiefly accommodating the public. The bridges were originally built at the expence of the proprietor, one of which, a stone bridge of one arch, over the water of Dulnan, built in 1700, having now fallen into disrepair, is completely supplied by a bridge built last summer, 1791, close by it. A military road being projected by Duthil to Dulleybridge, than which, if executed equal to what of it is finished, no road can be more complete. For the proper line of this road, the public are much indebted to the assiduity and attention of Colonel Montgomery, Inspector General of military roads; having traversed on foot a vast track of very rugged ground for that purpose, and thereby rendered the line at least 4 miles shorter than that universally adopted, before Colonel Montgomery inspected it, at the same time avoiding the expence of bridges, and the inconveniency of rising ground. The objection to this line, which appeared to other inspectors, arose from mosses of immense depth intervening.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The general size of the people is 5 feet 6. The greatest height which any individual in the parish has attained to, is that of a gentleman alive at present, being 6 feet 7, handsome and well proportioned.—They are extremely industrious, more properly laborious, in the cultivation of their possessions, superstitiously treading in the footsteps of their ancestors, disregarding every new mode of improvement, in which, unfortunately, this country is not singular. To emancipate from



a prejudice so universal and deeply rooted, will require strong and uncommon exertions. The efforts of a native have hitherto had so little effect, that they only serve to verify, 'That a prophet has no honour in his own country.' The only effectual mode would be, by one or more strangers of experience settling in such districts, as a necessity of this kind requires. Though proprietors, for a number of years, should give the highest encouragement, the advantage in time would be immense.—Until of late, the people were very fond of a military life; but the wages of servants increasing so exceedingly, that spirit is almost totally overcome. Formerly none would enlist but in the Highland corps. Bounty-money now determines the choice. The people are sufficiently economical, yet extremely hospitable and well disposed. They enjoy the comforts and advantages of society, as much as an inland country, and a severe climate, will admit of.—The situation of the parish in 1782 and 1783 was truly distressing. Had it not been for Government bounty, and Sir James Grant's large supplies from distant countries, the poorer class of people would have perished. So great was the destruction of the crop in 1782, by the frost setting in so early as the month of August, that the most substantial corn which was sent to some of the mills in this parish, was a crop of wild oats from a piece of ground which had been ploughed, but not sown. From various observations made upon this kind of grain, it appears to be a spontaneous production; so that should oats, by some calamity, be swept off from the face of the earth, it might be regained by a proper cultivation of this species of grain, offensive as it is. It will naturally occur to those unacquainted with a severe climate, that early sowing would, in some degree, prevent the fatal effects of frost. This may answer in a favourable climate,



climate, but impracticable, where for most seasons the ground is bomb proof in the middle of March, and mere puddle for some time thereafter. In 1680, as nearly as can be recollected, there was a famine in this and the neighbouring counties, of the most fatal consequence. The poorer sort of people frequented the church-yard, to pull a mess of nettles, and frequently struggled about the prey, being the earliest spring greens, which they greedily fed upon, boiled without meal or salt. So many families perished from want, that, for 6 miles in a well inhabited extent, within the year there was not a *smoke* remaining. Nursing women were found dead upon the public roads, and babes in the agonies of death sucking at their mother's breasts. Numbers, to avoid the horror of their bodies being exposed, finding the near approaches of unavoidable death, crawled to the church-yard, for the purpose of more immediate interment, that the earth, which denied them subsistence, might piously receive their remains into its bosom.—An augmentation of rent, the prodigious increase of servants wages, and letting small improvements towards the skirts of the hills, called Hill-improvements, all concur as causes of great alteration in the customs and style of living of the inhabitants, within these 20 years. That emigrations, to an extensive degree, have happened from a country where such oppression prevails, is not to be wondered at. Still emigration is no criterion to judge by, of the situation of a people. Whole tribes, who enjoyed the comforts of life in a reasonable degree, have of late years emigrated from different parts of Scotland, from mere humour, and a fantastical idea of becoming their own masters and freeholders.—The language principally spoken is the Gaelic, and the names of places are derived from that language; as *Craig-Elachie*, 'Rock of Alarm.' There are 2  
rocks



rocks of the same name, one at each extremity of the country called Strathspey, about 30 miles distant. Upon the approach of an enemy, the signal was sent from the one to the other, for all fit to bear arms to appear at an appointed place. Hence the Grants motto, 'Stand fast Craig-Elachie.'—The only principal inn in the parish is at Aviemore. There are no ale-houses. The number of houses in which whisky (a beverage which seems fit only for dæmons) is sold, is 10. There were many more, until of late, when they were suppressed by the proprietor, upon finding the very bad effects on the morals of the people.

## ROTHIE.



## ROTHIEMURCHUS.

*Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

THE parish of Rothiemurchus was united to Duthil in 1625. Sir James Grant of Grant is patron. The name in Gaelic is *Raat-mber-ghiuisb*, 'great plain of fir.' It is situated in the county of Inverness, Synod of Moray, and presbytery of Abernethy; extends 7 miles from E. to W. upon the south banks of Spey; 4 miles in breadth. Bounded by the parish of Duthil on the N. from which it is separated by the river Spey; on the W. by Kinguifich; on the S. by Athol and Braemar; on the E. by Abernethy. The nature of the soil near the banks of Spey is deep and fertile; but, in general, is shallow. There is an inexhaustible quarry, more properly a mountain, of limestone, in the centre, with abundance of fuel. There are 2 small lakes, abounding with char. Lochnellan, one of them, exhibits a scene most picturesque and romantic, and by the situation of the surrounding hills are formed 5 very remarkable echoes. Upon a small island in Lochnellan, is a castle, built time immemorial; the walls of which are still entire.—To the birds common in this country may be added, in the parish of Rothiemurchus, tarmagans, the only inhabitants, through all seasons, of the tops of the highest mountains.

*Population.*—The amount of the numbers at present is 280, all of the established church. Males, 130; Females, 150. Annual average of births, 30; of marriages, 5; deaths,



deaths, 12. Of souls under 10, 48; from 10 to 20, 63; from 20 to 50, 92; from 50 to 70, 46; from 70 to 100, 31; farmers and families, 9; household servants, 3; labouring servants, 46; gentry, 5. Each marriage, at an average, produces 5 children.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Number of cattle, 180; sheep, 2300; horses, 95. There being a number of wood manufacturers, the parish does not supply itself with provisions. The land-rent is L. 300; wood, at an average, L. 300.

*School, Poor, &c.*—The only school is that established by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The salary is L. 10 Sterling. That, and the perquisites, amount to about L. 15. The number of scholars seldom exceeds 30.—The number of poor is 7. The annual contributions for their relief do not exceed L. 3; and there is no other fund.



## NUMBER XLIII.

## PARISH OF METHLICK,

## (COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER KNOLLS.*

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*Situation, Surface, Soil, River, &c.*

**M**ETHLICK is in the presbytery of Ellon, and Synod of Aberdeen. The extent of the parish from S. to N. is 5 miles, from E. to W. 6. It is bounded by the parishes of Ellon, Tarves, Fyvie, Monwhitter, and New Deer. The appearance of the country is rather hilly than flat. The hills are covered with heath, verdure, and crops of oats. The nature of the soil is neither very fertile nor very barren.—The small river Ithan is the only one in the parish, and which falls into the sea about 10 computed miles below, to the E. It produces excellent trout in great abundance, and now and then salmon are caught as far up as this, and would be often found here, were it not that there are cruives about 6 miles below. In the autumn, salmon come up this length to spawn, and abundance of pearl has been found in the river here. Ithan is a flow running stream; there are few fords in it below this, and it might be rendered navigable, at no great expence, for large boats.

*Population.*



*Population.*—The amount of the population is about 1035. Dr Webster's state is 1385. The males are 482, females 553.

|                                 |    |             |     |
|---------------------------------|----|-------------|-----|
| The annual average of births is | 20 | Weavers,    | 5   |
| — deaths,                       | 17 | Shoemakers, | 7   |
| — marriages,                    | 10 | Smiths, -   | 4   |
| Heritors, -                     | 1  | Tailors, -  | 6   |
| Farmers, - - -                  | 50 | Houses, -   | 209 |
| Wrights, - - -                  | 5  |             |     |

The causes of depopulation may be, 1st, The rents are much raised upon the farmers, who do all they can to make their subtenants pay the additional rent. 2dly, Servants wages are so high, that people who need them must put up with fewer than formerly. 3dly, The number of manufactures and manufacturers is so much increased, as to draw a great many hands from the country into towns, so that servants for agriculture are scarce.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church was built in 1780, and the manse in 1734. The stipend is L. 27 : 14 : 2 Sterling, 3 chalders of meal, 5 bolls and 5 pecks of bear.—There is only 1 school, and the schoolmaster's emoluments are very small.—The number of the poor is 40. The annual amount of the contributions is L. 20; this includes penalties paid by delinquents; and there is a mortification for behoof of the poor of L. 333 : 6 : 8, bequeathed by Dr Charles Maitland. There is besides L. 35 belonging to the session, for behoof of the poor. A legacy of L. 20 was left lately.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The price of every article of provisions is doubled within 40 years past.—The wages of day-labourers are also doubled within the above time, and are at present from 8 d. to 1 s. with their victuals. The



usual wages for male servants are from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterling each half year, and for female servants L. 2 a-year. Within these 40 years they are doubled.—The people are of the middle size. They are very diligent and industrious.—The manufacture carried on here is that of knitting stockings, in which persons of every age and sex are employed, when other work does not interfere; this enables them to live tolerably well, and to pay their rents. They are generally frugal, more expensive in dress than in diet. They are also a social people; as one evidence of their being so, there may be sometimes 60, 70, and sometimes 100 at a wedding, to the expence of which the guests contribute, by sending some milk, butter, cheese, poultry, &c. and some send stone plates and stone jugs.—The air is rather healthy than otherwise.—There is an excellent limestone quarry.—The roads and bridges over burns are pretty tolerable, and are made by statute-labour.—The general size of the farms is small; the highest rent paid in the parish is L. 105. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2700 Scots. There is very little ground in the parish inclosed, except what is in the possession of the Earl of Aberdeen.—The crop in this parish in 1782 was very poor, and the meal it produced was in very small quantity, and exceedingly bad; and had it not been for what Government allowed at a low price, part in meal, part in peas, there had been a great scarcity; and besides, it was happy for the poor, that flour that year was cheap, for the poorer sort did at that time use flour-bread, otherwise they would have been in danger of perishing. Since that time, more potatoes are planted, and more turnip sown, than formerly.—The parish, in general, besides supplying itself, sends many articles of provision to Aberdeen.—Seed-time commonly begins with March, and harvest commonly ends with October. There are 50 ploughs, mostly drawn by oxen. There was scarcely a cart 40 years ago;



ago; now almost every person has a cart who can afford to keep one. There are 6 meal-mills; there are 2 ferry-boats. The fuel is peat and turf.—About 100 years ago, there were 3 boys in the school of Methlick killed by thunder; the schoolmaster was much hurt; and the minister's wife then here, being with child at the time, was so affected upon hearing of this event, that the child she brought forth some time after, was born paralytic, and continued so till her death.—There are only 2 ale-houses. From the heavy tax on malt, there is great danger of the ale-houses over all the country becoming dram-houses. For some time past, the cottagers have gone to towns, having found their immediate masters to be rather too hard upon them.

Dr George Cheyne, late physician at Bath, eminent in his profession, and also as an author, was born in this parish. Dr Charles Maitland was also born and buried here. He was the first who introduced inoculation into Britain, and was sent to Hanover by George II. to inoculate Frederick Prince of Wales.

NUM.



## NUMBER XLIV.

## PARISH OF KILBUCHO,

## (COUNTY OF PEEBLES.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM PORTEOUS.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

**K**ILBUCHO is said to be derived from the Gaelic, and to signify the Cell of Bucho, but of whom nothing is known. The supposition of Bucho, being a corruption of Bede, would correspond with a variety of traditionary reports, concerning that saint; as it is said that a number of monks, of his order, settled here, and gave name to the church, &c. There is likewise an excellent well of water, called St Bede's. There are some beautiful banks said to have been raised by the monks. The parish is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from E. to W. and 3 from S. to N. Although, on the west, it is scarcely more than 1 mile from Clyde, and about thrice that distance, on the east, from Tweed, yet it belongs to Tweeddale. It is bounded by Culter on the W.; by Biggar and Skirling, on the N.; Broughton, on the E.; and Glenholm, on the S. Kilbucho is somewhat remarkable for 2 parallel ridges of hills, covered with heath and grass, stretching from W. to E.; and for 2 vallies, on the N. of each chain of hills.

The



The heath on the hills is preserved by frequently burning it; a tender growth succeeds, which is delicious and excellent pasture for sheep. Carden, part of which is in the S. W. of this parish, is about 1400 feet above the level of the Tweed. The parish contains between 4000 and 5000 acres. The land is partly arable, and partly pasture ground. The soil is neither very good nor bad. There are 19 ploughs of land, and pasture for 200 score of sheep. The rental is little above L. 1000 Sterling a-year.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster's returns, the numbers were 279. At present, the whole amount is 362. Of whom 187 are males, and 175 females. There are under 10, 105; from 10 to 20, 75; from 20 to 30, 50; from 30 to 40, 48; from 40 to 50, 37; from 50 to 60, 24; from 60 to 70, 13; from 70 to 80, 6; from 80 to 90, 4; from 90 to 100, 1 vigorous old man. For 2 years past, the births have been 21, and the burials 4. At an average, there are 62 houses, and 5 persons to a family. There are about 8 or 10 day-labourers. The tenants generally prefer servants hired for a year or half year. Day-labourers receive about 8 d. in summer and 6 d. in winter. Men servants, when married, get about L. 5 a-year, with their victuals, and a house; and L. 6, if unmarried. Those who are unmarried are usually preferred.

*Stipend, School, &c.*—The stipend is L. 43 : 7 : 4, and 48 bolls of victual, 2 parts oat-meal, and 1 part bear, with the usual servitude of mofs, &c. Captain William Dickson is patron. There are 3 heritors.—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 100 Scots, including the interest of some mortified money. The fees for teaching English are 1 s. the quarter; for English and writing, 1 s. 3 d.; and for arithmetic,



metic, 1 s. 6 d. As session-clerk, he gets 6 s.; and 1 s. for every proclamation of banns.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—This district is at a great distance from coal. A good deal of peat is used for fuel. Attempts have been made to find coal in the parish, but have not as yet been successful, it is thought, for want of perseverance.—There are several inclosures, and less ground in tillage than in former times. The farmers rear and sell a considerable number of sheep. A considerable quantity of potatoes and turnip is raised here. Several good farm-houses have been lately erected.—There is a tumulus in the N. E. side of the parish, another in the parish of Coulter, and a third in the parish of Lamington, all in a line westward, and about the distance of 3 miles from one another. They might serve as signals, by means of torches, along an extended plain, when hostilities subsisted between England and Scotland. The English lay encamped on the hill of Corserine, in this parish, before the battle of Biggar.

N U M.



NUMBER XLV.

PARISH OF ABERDOUR,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By the Rev. Mr ROBERT LISTON.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.*

**A**BERDOUR, in Gaelic, signifies ‘the mouth of the water.’ The name is taken from a rivulet, which empties itself into the Forth, a little below the village. The parish lies in the Synod of Fife, and presbytery of Dunfermline. It is bounded by the parish of Dalgety, on the W.; by those of Beath and Auchtertoul, on the N.; by Kinghorn and Burntisland, on the E.; and by the Forth, on the S.; being, at an average, about 3 miles from E. to W. and as much from N. to S. A small part of the parish is detached from the rest, by the intervening parishes of Burntisland and Kinghorn, and lies at the distance of 4 or 5 miles. The number of acres may be about 5000. The parish is divided by a ridge of hills, running nearly from E. to W. The north part is a cold and bleak track, being considerably above the level of the sea, and excepting what has been done by one of the heritors on the N. W. corner of the parish, altogether unsheltered, either by hedges or plantations. The soil is cold and sour. On the south



south of this ridge, both the soil and the climate are much more kindly. The cold winds in Fifeshire blow from the N. and the E. The Colleslo Hills, which form the above mentioned ridge, afford shelter on the N.; the Gorry Hills, and a track of high ground, on the E. These fall gradually towards the W. running out into different branches, with little straths between them. The soil here is generally a black loam, more or less mixed with sand. The air is dry and healthy.

*Agriculture and Rent.*—The north part of the parish is but poorly cultivated. Little has been done in the way of draining or inclosing the fields. Where farms are small and leases short, little improvement can be expected upon poor lands. The south part is well cultivated, and generally inclosed. The real rent of the parish may be above L. 2600 Sterling. The valued rent is L. 7015, 10s. Scots. The best arable grounds are worth 40 s. the acre. Some of the lands about the village have been recently let at 50 s. and L. 3, 5 s. The farmers are 23 in number. They sow their wheat in the months of August, September and October; beans and oats in March; barley in the end of April and beginning of May. Harvest begins about the end of August, though it is not general till about the middle of September, and the crop is commonly got in by the end of October. The north part of the parish is considerably later. The old Scots plough continues to be used. *Small's* plough has been lately introduced. There are about 58 ploughs in the parish; 18 of which are upon the village acres. There may be as many carts as ploughs, and perhaps 160 horses, and about 130 milk-cows. The rotation of crops observed by the farmers is various. Some sow wheat, beans, barley and oats in succession, after summer-fallow; others leaving out the oats, sow grass-seeds with the  
the



the barley; some take wheat after drilled beans or potatoes, and then barley and oats; after turnips they sow barley, and then oats with grass-seeds. The parish in general exports wheat and barley, and imports oats and meal. The prices are much the same as in Mid Lothian, or something lower. Farms are from 50 to 150 acres. There are about 200 acres planted in the parish. The trees thrive well, and much more may be done this way. The rugged spots, which are frequent, and generally covered with furze, if they were planted, would beautify the face of the country which they now deform.

*Roads and Minerals.*—The roads in this parish are generally bad, as in other parts of Fife. The gentlemen of the county are now paying attention to the direction and the formation of the roads. Toll-bars are erecting, and a great change for the better must soon take place. The village of Aberdour, like many others, has suffered by its causeway being changed into a common road. Such a road in a narrow village continues long moist, and is hurtful to the health of the inhabitants. They suffer great inconveniencies too, in winter, from the depth of the road, and in summer, from the dust. Neither does a common road last in a village, being exhausted by the attempts which are made to keep it clean. A paved causeway endures, and no inconvenience which the travellers can find from it, can balance the daily inconveniencies to which the residents are subjected by the other. The parish abounds with coal, lime and free stone, and some iron stone. The coal is not wrought at present. The inhabitants are supplied with this necessary article from collieries in the neighbouring parishes. The price paid on the hills is 6 d. the load, of 18 stone, of chews or small coal; the great coal is reserved at present for the sea-sale. The limestone on the coast



is shipped at a commodious harbour, which the Earl of Morton has lately built for the purpose. It is a stone of a strong and superior quality. It is used at Carron for smelting. It is also disposed of in shells, or slacked. The shells are put on board at 1 s. 0½ d. the boll, and the stones at 2 s. 8 d. the ton.

*Coast.*—The parish stretches along the shore above two miles. From the east boundary the coast is rugged and steep, and generally covered with wood to the water's edge. The trees have been planted with a proper regard to the variety of shade, and the jutting rocks which appear in different places, render the whole extremely picturesque and beautiful. This wood is intersected with walks cut out on the face of the hill, from which the prospects are rich and varied. On the west, there is a beautiful white sandy bay, surrounded with trees. Here the grounds rise gently to the west, bordered by thriving plantations; and stretching southward, they terminate in a perpendicular rock washed by the sea.—By this rock on the E. and by headlands on the S. W. the small harbour of Aberdour is well sheltered from all winds. The shipping at present consists of a few small vessels. There is one ferry-boat to Leith, which is principally employed in carrying grain. The shipping here, as in most towns on the coast of Fife, was formerly much more considerable than at present. To the N. W. of this harbour, the ground again rises into a little hill, covered with trees, above whose tops an obelisk yet appears; beyond this, some corn-fields stretch to the western boundary of the parish on the coast. The prospects to the south are beautiful. On the right hand lies the island of Inchcolm, with the ruins of its monastery. On the left appears the town of Burntisland, which here seems to be seated on the sea. The islands of Inchkeith, Cramond, Mickry



Mickry and Carcary, vary the appearance of the frith. The coast of Lothian is just distant enough to be seen with advantage. The city of Edinburgh and its environs rise in view, and the distant Pentland Hills terminate the prospect.

*Village and Manufactures.*—The village of Aberdour lies about a quarter of a mile from the sea. It is quite surrounded by rising grounds, except towards the south. Between the village and the sea are rich corn-fields, and the sharpness of the sea-air is kept off by a great number of fine old spreading trees. The venerable old castle of Aberdour, rising amidst trees, stands on the eastern bank of the rivulet, which, taking a winding course below it, falls into the frith in front. The situation is beautiful, and the prospects from it magnificent. To the north of this ruin stands the house of Hillside, commanding different views of the Forth, and exhibiting the richest and most diversified scenes. Between this and the village, the rivulet runs in the bottom of a little rich strath, and its borders in summer are covered with cloth and yarn, which gives a pleasing idea of the industry of the people. There are 36 weavers in the village, who are employed principally in making coarse cloths and tickings. The only manufacture for export is the coarse tickings, of which there are made about 520 webs annually, of 70 or 80 yards each. There is a small manufacture of spades, shovels, &c. lately erected in the parish. The great hammer is driven by water. There are about 15 tons of kelp made annually upon the coast and the island of Inchcolm.

*Population.*



*Population.*—According to Dr Webster, the population

|                              |   |   |   |   |      |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|------|
| was                          | - | - | - | - | 1198 |
| In the end of the year 1790, | - | - | - | - | 1280 |
| Males in the village,        | - | - | - | - | 368  |
| In the country part,         | - | - | - | - | 221  |
| Females in the village,      | - | - | - | - | 472  |
| In the country part,         | - | - | - | - | 219  |
| Total males,                 | - | - | - | - | 589  |
| Total females,               | - | - | - | - | 691  |
| Aged under 10,               | - | - | - | - | 320  |
| between 10 and 20,           | - | - | - | - | 240  |
| between 20 and 50,           | - | - | - | - | 482  |
| between 50 and 70,           | - | - | - | - | 191  |
| between 70 and 100,          | - | - | - | - | 47   |

They are all of the Established Church, except 263 Seceders. The average of baptisms is 32; of marriages 9; of deaths 23.

*Inchcolm.*—The parish of Aberdour belonged to the monastery of Inchcolm. This monastery was founded about the beginning of the 12th century, by Alexander I. in consequence of a vow. Sibbald says, that the wester part of Aberdour was given by one of the Mortimers to this monastery, for the privilege of burying in the church. There is a tradition, that the corpse of one of the family was thrown overboard in a storm, which gives name of Mortimer's Deep to the channel between the island and the shore, according to the account which I have from a gentleman connected with this parish. This wester part of Aberdour, together with the lands and barony of Beath, are said to have been acquired from an Abbot of Inchcolm, by James, afterwards Sir James Stuart, second son of Andrew Lord Evandale, grandfather by his daughter to the admirable Crichton, and by his second son, Lord Doune, to Sir James Stuart,



Stuart, who married the daughter of the Regent Murray. Lord Doune was Commendator of the monastery of Inchcolm at the Reformation. The whole of the above mentioned property, together with the island itself, is still in the family of Moray, with the title of St Colme. The present Earl of Moray attempted to cover the island with trees, which would have increased its picturesque appearance, but the attempt did not succeed.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The Earl of Morton is patron of the parish. The present Earl is a grandson of James Earl of Morton, who was President of the Royal Society. He was a Nobleman of distinguished literature and abilities.—The stipend consists of 63 bolls 3 firlots of meal, 50 bolls 1 firlot of barley, 15 bolls of oats, L. 200 Scots of money, and L. 5 for elements, with manse and glebe.—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 100 Scots. The school-fees are from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. 6 d. for English, writing, arithmetic and Latin. The ordinary number of scholars is from 60 to 90, or upwards. As session-clerk, he has the perquisites of 2 s. 6 d. for proclamation and registration of marriages, and 10 d. for registration of baptisms.—The funds for the poor are from L. 25 to L. 27 a-year. During the general scarcity in the years 1782, 1783, the people were enabled to live by the generosity of the heritors, who brought meal into the parish, and sold it considerably lower than the market-price. To the poor it was distributed *gratis*.—There is an hospital in the village for 4 widows. It was founded by Anne Countess of Moray. The Earl of Moray and the Clerks to the Signet present the widows. The Earl of Moray presents 3 of them, and the Clerks to the Signet the 4th.

*Antiquities.*



*Antiquities.*—Not far from the village of Aberdour, on a flat on the top of a hill, there is one of those cairns or tumuli so frequently met with in Scotland. The farmer on whose farm it is situated, when carrying away the stones some years ago, discovered a stone coffin, in which were found the skeleton of a man, the head of a spear made of copper, with the copper nails by which it had been fixed to the shaft, and a piece of clear substance, like amber, supposed to have been an amulet. The coffin, with a great part of the cairn still remain. The tumulus has been conical, the coffin being exactly in the centre of the base, from which, to the circumference, it measures 20 paces. The height cannot now be ascertained. There have been found in the same cairn several earthen vessels, containing human bones. The vessels were flat, narrower at the bottom than top, and without any covering. The farmer digging in the same field, in another place, found such a quantity of human bones, that he was obliged to desist.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—It is said that there were only three parsonages in Fife, Aberdour, Dyfart, and Balin-gry; and that there were only two nunneries in Scotland of the order of St Francis, the one at Dundee, the other at Aberdour; the field contiguous to the minister's garden bears the name of the Sisterlands to this day.—The people of Aberdour are sober and industrious, are contented with their situation, enjoy in a considerable degree the advantages of society, and while in health, they are able to maintain their families. In sickness and in old age, many need relief.—Labourers receive from 8 d. to 1 s. 2 d. according to their ability; carpenters and masons, 1 s. 6 d. tailors, 6 d. and their victuals; the wages of men servants employed in husbandry, are from L. 5 to L. 8 a-year, with victuals, of women servants from L. 2 to L. 3, with victuals.



tuals. A good spinner on the two-handed wheel, may earn from 6 d. to 8 d. the day.—The food of the common people consists principally of oat-meal, potatoes, garden-roots, and a little butcher meat. There are 5 alehouses in the village. The people are fond of a seafaring life, and enter willingly into the navy. There are about 60 sailors in the village. The common people here, and generally through Fife, are not fond of the army.—The village is in general healthy. A very epidemical fever appeared here June 1790, and continued till January 1791. It was not materially different from the fevers that are common in this country, except in the prevalency of it. It was more general than in any former period in the memory of man. Nearly a fourth part of the parish was infected during these 7 months. The frequency of this fever was supposed to proceed from two circumstances, very favourable to contagion: Its commencing in the hottest season of the year, and among the children at school, who were crowded in a low damp room.—The croup sometimes appears among the children, as it generally does in places near the sea. It often proves fatal, unless assistance is immediately procured.—Inoculation is frequent, and successful among the better sort of people; yet the common people are still averse to it. This is not so much owing to their prejudices, as to their poverty. A workman, with a small family, hath very little to spare to the surgeon.—It is asked, what can be done to improve the condition of the people? One answer to this may apply to a great part of Scotland. There is no doubt but it would much improve the state, both of the people and of the country, if the proprietors of land, where they have it in their power, were to give long and encouraging leases to their tenants. This useful body of men, who, by toil and expence, improve the fields, should be enabled to live comfortably, and, by the industry of  
their



their youth, to lay up a provision for the season of old age. To improve the condition of the people, care should be taken to improve their morals; and particularly to establish their virtue upon religion, the only stable foundation of good morals. The higher ranks of life might do much good in this respect. They who, by their practice, weaken the influence of religion among the people, do much hurt in society; but they who give their countenance to religion, are public blessings, and do honour, both to the soundness of their own heads, and the goodness of their own hearts.

NUM-



NUMBER XLVI.

PARISH OF KILMADAN,

(COUNTY OF ARGYLE.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN MACKINNON.*

*Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

THE most ancient name of this parish is said to have been *Glenduiske*, signifying the ‘Glen of the Black-water.’ Afterwards a battle was fought between Meckan, son of Magnus, King of Norway, and the Albuns or Gails, where it is said the Norwegians were slaughtered on each side of a river called *Ruail*, which runs through the middle of the glen; and their bodies being thrown into the river, gave the colour of blood to it. Hence the parish got the name of *Glenderwell*, and the river the name of *Ruail*, which signifies the ‘Glen of Red Blood.’ Though the epithet *red* is unnecessary to be added to blood, yet it is very often done in Gaelic. After the introduction of Christianity into the country, the place of worship was consecrated to St Modan, and called *Cella Modani*, or *Kilmadan*. This parish is in the presbytery of Dunoon, and Synod of Argyle. It is 12 miles long, almost contained in the bottom of the glen, and a little more than a quarter of



a mile broad. It is bounded by Kilfinnan, Inverchallen, Dunoon, and Strachur. The parish is almost a flat, bounded by hills, covered mostly with heath. The air is moist, the soil deep and fertile. The extent of the sea-coast is about 3 miles; the shore is sandy and flat for the most part. Cod, haddocks, syths, mackrel, and herring, are caught on the coast. The herring are sold at 1 s. the hundred, when plentiful; they were sent sometime to Rothesay, Greenock, and Glasgow; they are best in August. Mussels are the only shell-fish here; and wreck, the only sea-weed manure. Little kelp is made. The tide ebbs between Bute and Kerry. The only bay is at the mouth of Ruail, very shallow and sandy, and ebbs out 2 miles.

*Population.*—The population of the parish, about 40 years ago, must have been at least 4 to 1 more numerous than at present. Dr Webster's state is 806. The number of inhabitants now, is about

|                                                  |      |
|--------------------------------------------------|------|
|                                                  | 351  |
| Males,                                           | 172  |
| Females,                                         | 179  |
| The annual average of births,                    | 18   |
| ————— of deaths,                                 | 14   |
| ————— of marriages,                              | 4    |
| Under 10 years of age,                           | 70   |
| From 10 to 20,                                   | 86   |
| From 20 to 50,                                   | 118  |
| From 50 to 70,                                   | 67   |
| From 70 to 100,                                  | 10   |
| Heritors, (4 of them reside in the parish),      | 6    |
| Farmers, and their families, including graziers, | 42   |
| Handicraftsmen,                                  | 14   |
| Apprentices and journeymen,                      | 4    |
| Seamen,                                          | 10   |
|                                                  | Male |



|                                   |   |   |    |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|----|
| Male labouring servants,          | - | - | 25 |
| Female                            | - | - | 32 |
| Foreigners, (from North America), | - | - | 1  |
| Gentry,                           | - | - | 3  |
| Roman Catholic families,          | - | - | 1  |

The proportion between the annual births and the whole population, is as - - 18 to 351

Between the annual marriages and the whole population, is as - - 4 to 351

Between the annual deaths and the whole population, is as - - 14 to 351

Bachelors, - - - 3

Married men, including widowers, - - 90

Each marriage, at an average, produces between 4 and 5 children. A few are born in other districts and parishes.

Inhabited houses, about - - 93

The population of the parish is diminished nearly one-half from what it was 25 years ago. The cause is plainly this: The proprietors set their farms in a large extent to graziers, who can afford to pay a great rent; because 1 man will herd the cattle on a farm which formerly supported 8 families. They find also the fewer farmers in a farm, the less that farm is burdened with the maintenance of families; and that a great number of farmers cannot pay the same rent that a few can. Some families leave the parish yearly; but for 20 years past, only 2 families belonging to it have emigrated from Scotland.

*Produce, &c.*—The parish produces oats, barley, peas, potatoes, turnips, rye-grass, clover, garden-stuffs, fruit-trees, barren trees. There are between 5000 and 6000 sheep,  
1000



1000 black cattle, 109 horses. The parish imports articles of provision. The soil is friendly to flax. This year the incumbent had 5 stone Tron weight of unchecked lint, upon 1 peck sowing. The want of a lint-mill is a disadvantage to the country. Seed-time is generally in April, and harvest in September. There are 24 ploughs of the Scotch kind, and 28 carts. The land-rent may be about L. 1300 Sterling. The rent of the best arable land is between 15s. and 20s. the acre. The state of this parish in the years 1782 and 1783, was not so bad as that of many others; but the crop in general, over the whole, suffered from the summer's cold and the wet harvest. The poor were the better for the supply granted by Government.

*Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The church was built in 1783 and the manse in 1773. The value of the stipend, including the glebe, is L. 100 Sterling. The number of the poor is 20, the annual contributions for their relief, about L. 10 Sterling.

*Prices and Wages.*—About 30 years ago, 4s. was a great price for a sheep; at present, it is 12s.; a cow at that time sold at L. 1, 5s. and now at L. 4 Sterling. Everything else of meat kind is equally high in proportion. Meal is mostly at the same rate it was then. Within these 20 years, servants and labourers have tripled their wages or rather quadrupled them. A servant man demands L. 8 Sterling, 4 pair of shoes, and his victuals: About 20 years ago, he would have been glad to get L. 3 Sterling a-year. A servant-maid L. 2, 10s. Sterling, and her victuals, and 2 pair of shoes.

*Miscellaneous*



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is a mineral spring, once famous for curing the scurvy and other disorders, but is not now resorted to. There are 2 tumuli supposed to have been raised by the Norwegians, but have not been opened.—The river Ruail produces salmon, grilse, trouts of different kinds, par and eel, but not in great quantity, sold at 4 d. the pound; they are best between May and August.—There is moor and limestone. There is a great quantity of what is called pipe-clay in the parish. Peats are the common fuel, and for the most part very ill to be got, on account of the height of the hills, and bad access to them. This is one of the greatest inconveniencies to which the people are subject.—The inhabitants are much disposed to industry, and it is a pity that some manufacture, especially in the linen way, is not established among them, as the soil is so favourable for flax. They are judicious, economical, and disposed to generous and humane actions. They are not remarkable for size or strength; some are 5 feet 6 inches, some 6 feet; the greatest height known was 6 feet 2 inches. They are remarkably altered with regard to their dress within these 30 years; and their living is little inferior to their dress. The Gaelic is the language chiefly spoken.—The people are not averse to the sea. There is but one boat in the whole parish. Few or none have been in the navy, and none in the army, except in the Fencibles.—Property has changed three times in the the present century. Land sold at 6 years purchase not 50 years ago. The people complain of high rents. Poor people get a house and garden for 10 s. a-year. The statute labour is exacted in money. The bridges are built and repaired by the statute money. Very little land is inclosed.—This parish gave birth to a very able mathematician, Mr  
Colin



Colin Maclaurin, late Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, and also to a very eminent divine, Mr John Maclaurin, both sons of Mr John Maclaurin, once minister of this parish.

NUM.



## NUMBER XLVII.

## PARISH OF MONIKIE,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR).

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM MAULE.*

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*Situation, Soil, &c.*

THIS parish is 6 English miles in length, and 4 in breadth. Its form is almost triangular, one of the angles terminating in the sandy desert situated at the mouth of the Tay. On the S. W. and W. it is bounded by the parishes of Monifieth and Murroes; on the S. E. by Barrie; on the E. by Panbride; on the N. by Carmylie, and on the N. W. by Inverarity and Tealing.—The face of the country is diversified by several large hills. The soil and air are very various. The S. part of the parish is distinguished for fertility. In the N. and N. W. the soil is more moist, the air colder, and vegetation more slow; insomuch, that the inhabitants of the former have frequently their harvest gathered in a month or 5 weeks before those of the latter. The interposition of a large hill, or ridge of hills, called Camustoun, or Dunie, makes a considerable alteration in point of climate.

*Agriculture.*



*Agriculture.*—The rent of the best land is from 5 s. to 15 s. the acre, but that of some of the worst has been recently 16 s. 8 d. Of the best land, the leases are old, having been let about 23 years ago, most of them for twice 19 years, and a lifetime, the rent rising 1 s. the acre at the 20th year. At that period, little or nothing had been done in the way of improving land, and the tenants were in general poor; most of them are now in easy, some of them in opulent circumstances; they are in general frugal and industrious. Of those farms, one which happened to be let for only 19 years at L. 52 Sterling, and which consists of about 170 acres, was let again within these last 4 years at L. 120; and the present tenant being a skilful and industrious farmer, is likely to make more money than the former, who laboured in the old way. Were the leases of the other farms expired, they could all be let for more than twice the present rent. In the southern part of this parish, the farms are for the most part inclosed. Every farmer finding his account in breeding and fattening cattle, raises annually several acres of turnip. Wheat has long been cultivated in the southern, and which is the most fertile part. For the last 6 or 7 years, the farmers discontinued the sowing of this grain, several of them having met with considerable losses by blasting. But they are now beginning to try it again, and have this year been successful. Good artificial grass is also produced. By an article in their tacks, most of the tenants are bound to have a third of their farms always in grass. Much attention has of late years been paid to the raising of flax. About 25 years ago, when a great proportion of the ground consisted of natural pasture, every farmer had a large flock of sheep. At present, there are not in this parish above 2 or 3 who have sheep at all. In the N. and N. W. parts  
of



of the parish, there are large tracks of moor, formerly waste and uncultivated, covered wholly with heath, inso-much that a person might have travelled a considerable way without seeing any other vegetable. At present those tracks contain plantations of thriving young wood. In a track of moor which forms the northern extremity of this parish, there are settled 15 or 16 families, who, by their industry, have rendered arable, and in some degree fertile, considerable spots of land formerly waste and barren. The valued rent of the parish is L. 4608 : 6 : 8 Scotch. There are about 23 considerable farms, some of which consist of more than 200 acres.

*Population.*—This parish contains 2 large villages, one of which having about 30, and the other 25 families, and 2 or 3 villages less populous. According to Dr Webster's returns, the numbers were 1345. The number in 1772 was 1033; at present it is 1278. There is reason to believe, that about the beginning and middle of this century, the parish was more populous. The diminution of the number of people is owing to the union of farms; the farmers also employ fewer hands than formerly. Many of the cottagers are exterminated. Since commerce began to flourish, several manufacturers, who subsisted partly by agriculture, have gone to large towns. The annual average of births for the last 10 years is 32. The annual average during a period of 10 years subsequent to 1718, and during 10 years subsequent to 1742, appears from a well kept register, to have been 41. For some years past, the annual average of deaths has been about 19. The number of marriages annually for 7 years past has not exceeded 13.



*Church, Stipend, School and Poor.*—The church seems to have been built or renewed in 1678. The manse and offices are at present somewhat ruinous. The value of the living depending chiefly on victual is in different years different. During the 7 years of the incumbent's ministry, the stipend, at an average, has been L. 115 Sterling a-year. The manse and glebe cannot be estimated, both together, at more than L. 10 or L. 12 Sterling.—The schoolmaster's income as schoolmaster, session-clerk and precentor, is about L. 35 Sterling a-year. The number of scholars is from 40 to 50.—The poor are in general well provided for. None of them are reduced to the necessity of begging. The number at present on the roll is 15. The annual average of collections is about L. 23 or L. 24 Sterling. There are of seat-rents belonging to the poor about L. 12 Sterling; and there is lying at interest at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. 200 Sterling.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The roads in this parish at present are not in the best condition. That from Dundee to Arbroath, which intersects the lower part of the parish, is in bad weather almost impassable. There is a turnpike-road begun to be made, which, though a mile farther south than the old road, yet being quite straight, will shorten the distance between these 2 towns. About 7 years ago, a road was formed leading from Brechin to Dundee, and passing through the northern part of this parish. Upon this road there was built about 5 years ago, a strong masonry bridge, 55 feet high, with a single arch, over a precipice at Denfiend, or the Fiend's Den, a place deep and winding.—Near the 8th mile-stone, E. from Dundee, there is a ridge of small hills, called the Cur-hills, where within these 14  
years



years several stone coffins have been found. In the vicinity of the same place, were found upwards of 6 feet below the surface of the earth, several trees, oak, fir and birch. There were also found urns, covered with broad stones, below which were ashes, supposed to have been human bodies reduced to that state by burning. To the south of the Cur-hills were found several heads of deer, and horns of a very large size, among marl, about 9 feet below the surface.

Within these 3 or 4 years, there have been 5 or 6 large neat new houses, and several smaller ones built. Every farmer almost has within these 10 years made some addition or improvement to his dwelling house, or to his offices.—There are 2 considerable inns in this parish, and several petty ale-houses. The consumption of spiritous liquors has within a few years greatly increased, the quality of the ale brewed in this part of the country being worse than formerly; yet the morals of the people seem to have suffered little by the change. No business of any consequence can be transacted by the common people but in the ale-house. But the vice of drunkenness, and the crime of theft, are in this and other parts of the country more rare than about 30 years ago, when the lower class of people having fewer objects to excite their industry, were more idle, and consequently more profligate.—About 35 years ago, the wages of a ploughman were in this neighbourhood L. 2, 10 s. Sterling; of a carter L. 2; of a female servant from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. At present, a ploughman is thought good for nothing, who does not receive L. 7 or L. 8. The usual wages of female servants are from L. 3 to L. 4. About 30 or 40 years ago, a farm which is now worked by 3 ploughs, having each 4, sometimes only  
ly



ly 2 horses, employed 5 cattle ploughs, having each 10 oxen. Farms where 2 ploughs drawn by 4 horses are now found sufficient, were formerly wrought by 3 ploughs drawn by 10 oxen.

NUM.



NUMBER XLVIII.

PARISH OF CALDER,  
(COUNTIES OF NAIRN AND INVERNESS.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER GRANT.

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*Name, Situation, Soil, Surface, Rivers, &c.*

THE old name of the parish was *Borivon*, supposed to be derived from the Gaelic, *Brae Ewen*, or, 'Ewan's high country.' Calder is derived from *Coille*, a 'wood,' and *Dor*, 'water.' It is situated chiefly in the county of Nairn; a small part of it lies in that of Inverness; it is in the presbytery of Nairn and Synod of Moray. The form of the parish is not unlike the letter T. Its extent is about 4 miles from S. W. to N. E. The general breadth is not above 2 miles, but a part of it from the centre runs up to the high country about 7 or 8 miles. The parish is at the distance of 2 or 3 miles from the sea; bounded by Nairn on the N. by Auldearn and Ardclach on the E. by Moy and Duthil on the S. and Croy on the W. The low part of the parish is flat and level, the higher part hilly and mountainous, abounding with heath, moss and some wood.—The soil is sharp, fertile and friendly, but not wet or deep. The mountains which divide Calder from Moy to the S. are very



very high; are covered with heath, and abound with moss. There is a good deal of hilly and rocky ground in the lower parts. A part of the low lands has sometimes been laid under water, by the overflowing of the burn of Calder, and the water of Nairn. The most considerable inundation happened in 1782. The wood of Calder, and particularly the burn that runs through it, offers to the view the most delightful scenery. It runs in a dark and deep channel, so as to be lost to the sight, with high, steep and rocky banks on the east side, covered with trees of all kinds, and the most beautiful shrubbery. The rapid river of Findhorn runs through the higher part of the parish, as does the river of Nairn wash it below. Both these rivers abound with salmon and trout. Salmon about 12 years ago, and less, sold at 1 d. and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. the pound, of late it has got up to 3 d. and even 4 d. The salmon is in high perfection in May.

*Population.*—There is every reason to believe that the parish is better peopled now than it was some years ago. Although the farms are enlarged, several small ones being thrown into one, yet the number of improvers of moor and waste lands is increasing. Tradesmen are more numerous, and so are cottagers. Dr Webster's state is 882. The parish may now contain about 850 persons, above the age of 6; of which 400 may be males, and 450 females. The annual average of births is  $23\frac{1}{2}$  for the last 10 years; of deaths, 14; of marriages, about 9. There are about 20 persons between 70 and 100 years of age. The number of farmers, and their families, is upwards of 60; of traders, dyers, carpenters, shoemakers, wheel-wrights, tailors, smiths, masons, &c. upwards of 40, and about 20 apprentices. There are upwards of 150 labouring servants, including both



both sexes; 2 students at the University; 1 person a native of Wales, and 1 of America. There are scarce above 20 here born in any other parish or district of Great Britain. There are 3 or 4 gentlemens families, only 1 Seceder, and 1 Episcopalian. The proportion between the annual births and the whole population, is about 1 to 37: Between the annual marriages and the whole population, about 1 to 94: Between the annual deaths and the whole population, about 1 to 60. Each marriage, at an average, produces 6 children. There has been no emigration of consequence from the parish; but every other year there are some young lads, in the character of adventurers, servants, and apprentices, who go to America, London, Edinburgh, and other parts. There are about 160 inhabited houses, and about 5 or 6 to a family. Only 1 person has been banished from this parish in the memory of man.

*Produce, &c.*—Almost all kinds of vegetables and plants that are produced in the north of Scotland, are to be found here. Trees are the oak, alder, birch, mountain-ash, ash, elm, beech, larix, and other pines in great numbers. Horses, about 420; black cattle, 2100; sheep, 6300; goats, 400. There was a survey and map made of the greatest part of the parish in 1782; by which it appears, that the number of acres may be about 26,000, making a reasonable allowance for what has not been surveyed. Of the above, 18,000 acres, at least, consist of moor and moss. There may be about 1000 sown yearly with barley, 2600 with oats and rye, 400 under potatoes, turnip, and flax, 500 let out in ley, without sown grass, there being little grass-feed sown in the parish; and the remaining acres under wood, broom, green moss, and common pasture. The parish does more than supply itself with provisions, and furnishes a great deal of



of oat-meal, in particular, to the neighbouring towns of Inverness, Nairn, and Fort George. It sells a good many cattle and sheep to the butchers in those towns, and to drovers. It affords much barley to the distillers, of whom there are 2 in the parish. The rent of the parish is about L. 1200 Sterling. Some acres of arable land are let at 15s. an acre, and some so low as 2s. 6d. The size of the farms is very different, some consist of upwards of 100 acres, and others below 40. There are not as yet many inclosures, but the tenants are sensible of the advantage of having their land inclosed, and some of the more opulent have begun to inclose and fence. The situation of the parish in 1782 and 1783 was surely bad enough, though not so ill as in many places. The corns were not so much hurt by the frost, of course, the crop was better, and few of the cattle died, having been maintained chiefly on the tops of whins, cut and threshed, of which there are great quantities almost in every part of the parish. Oats are sown the latter end of March, barley generally before the 20th of May; and they are begun to be reaped between the 1st and 12th of September.

*Prices and Wages.*—Beef, mutton, veal, and pork, are from 2½d. to 3¼d. the pound. Hens 6d. geese 1s. 6d. to 2s. ducks 8d. turkies 2s. 6d. butter 12s. cheese from 4s. to 6s. the stone; barley has not been under 15s. for many years; meal is variable. It is to be observed, that in all these particulars, there has been a prodigious rise of price since the 1780. A day-labourer may receive 6d. and perhaps 7d. a-day throughout the year, with some other advantages; such as a house and garden, time to gather and prepare his fuel, an extraordinary allowance in harvest, with liberty to plant potatoes, as far as any dung he can gather will



will go. This is found very sufficient to maintain a family of 5 or 6 persons, if the wife has any industry at all. Male farm-servants get from L. 4 to L. 6 in the year, and female servants from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2. Domestic servants get a little more. A labourer in husbandry gets 6 d. a-day, with his victuals. A carpenter, mason, or other tradesman, about 1 s. 4 d. or 1 s. 6 d. without victuals.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church was built in 1619. The value of the living is about L. 80. Mr Campbell of Calder is patron. There are 2 heritors, but neither of them reside. The manse was built about 1730.—The schoolmaster's salary is a chalders of victual, half meal, half barley. The meal is paid by the tenants, and the barley by the landlord. The schoolmaster receives also L. 1, or L. 1, 5 s. Sterling, as session-clerk and precentor, 1 s. for every marriage, and 6 d. for every baptism. The school-fees are 1 s. a-quarter for English scholars, 1 s. 6 d. for writing, and 2 s. 6 d. for Latin and arithmetic. In winter the school is generally very throng, between 3 and 4 score of boys and girls attend. The parents in general wish their children to read, write, and get some knowledge of arithmetic, but show little desire for the learned languages.—The number of poor is about 40. The annual contributions for their relief are only about L. 12. The poor have certificates to beg from door to door in the parish.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The parish has some very peculiar advantages. It is well furnished with water, wood, and fuel. It has within itself, or is in the close neighbourhood, of mills of many kinds, not only meal-mills, but flour-mills, waulk-mills, lint-mills, barley-mills, and malt-mills. It is well stocked with tradesmen of every kind,



and withal the landlord is the most indulgent of masters. The air is remarkably salubrious. The rents of cottagers houses, with a small garden, are from 15 s. to L. 1, when paid in money, but are generally exacted in services. It is found convenient to have cottagers in the neighbourhood. They are employed as day-labourers, and are extremely useful, particularly in the more busy seasons of the year. But the tenants would not choose to trust to them alone for the whole work of the farm, preferring servants hired from term to term, as the most steady and fixed. But few servants can be prevailed upon to engage for a longer space than half a year at a time, which is often a great inconvenience. As to personal services, they are almost in disuse, being only preserved on a small estate, and a wadset held by a gentleman in the parish. Where they are still continued, they consist of various attendances and carriages. The tenants or subtenants assist their master in casting and leading his peats; in cutting his corns, and bringing them home; in repairing his offices, in carrying his victual to market, &c. But Mr Campbell of Calder, the principal proprietor, has of late, in a most generous and humane manner, abolished all such services and carriages on his estate, commuting them with the tenant at a very easy conversion; and has included the rent, stipend, cess, customs, in one sum, payable by the tenant at 2 different terms, obliging him only to assist in leading materials for the church, manse, and offices, school-house, and for keeping the old castle in repair.—There is 1 inn in the parish, and 2 or 3 ale-houses; but it does not appear that the morals of the people are in the least corrupted by them. They are convenient for travellers, there being several public roads through the parish, but they are very seldom visited by the parishioners. It must be allowed that the people are  
very



very industrious in their way. Their great industry in the summer, lies in preparing dunghills and their fuel, and in winter, in threshing out and milling their corns.—There is no established manufacture in the parish, but still a great deal of work is done in the web-way in their families, both for home-use and for sale. A number of the women are also occupied in spinning lint, given out by manufacturers in towns, for which they receive from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. to 3 d. the hank.—The inhabitants discover no particular propensity for the military life, and very few enlist in the army or navy. Luxury, in point of dress, seems to have crept in very much of late, owing to the high wages. The people in general are humane, moral, and religious. There are few quarrels or law-suits among them, and horning has scarcely been executed against any one in the parish for many years. They seem to be very much contented with their situation, and, as a proof of this, show little or no desire to leave the parish. But still they would find themselves more at ease, were their leases permanent, and the caprice, the wantonness, and high demands of servants, in some measure checked.—The roads are in a tolerable state, being kept in repair by the statute-labour, which is exacted in kind. The bridges are in good order, being so kept by Government, as the military road passes through the parish.—Erse and English are equally spoken.—In place of some of the more obnoxious taxes of small consideration, laid on, or now laying on by Ministry, a stamp might be proposed of a 6 d. on certificates to servants, from their masters or mistresses, when they leave their service; to journeymen and shopkeepers, (not apprentices), clerks in offices, and the like, when they leave their employment; to all day-labourers, adventurers, handicraftsmen, and others, when they leave one parish and county, and go to another,



another, testifying, (where there is reason to do so), their honesty, sobriety, and peaceable behaviour; to be signed by the Ministers, Justices, Sheriffs, or Magistrates; and that all these descriptions of persons should be obliged to carry along with them such certificates upon every remove, otherwise be considered as suspected persons. Something of this kind, it is imagined, would be very productive, and would have a happy tendency in preserving good order, and preventing many mischiefs in society. The stamp might likewise be extended to certificates to students, when they leave the University, from the professors, attesting not only their progress in literature, but their general good behaviour while there; to patrons, when they present, certifying their having qualified for that purpose; and to probationers also, when they accept, of their having taken the oaths to enable them to accept; in short, to all who are by law obliged to qualify to Government, on their acceptance of any place or office; to all certificates, proving the identity and existence of persons, ages, marriages, degrees of propinquity, and the like. From the above might be excepted certificates granted to widows and orphans of all ranks and denominations; also those granted to the poor, either recommending them to charity at home, or to hospitals, infirmaries, and any public donation; also certificates granted to persons in sickness, preventing their attendance at courts, assizes, or in any other way and place where their presence is required by law.

All the ploughs are of the old Scotch kind. About 70 are in constant employment, and occasionally in the spring there are more. The tenants have not as yet got any of the large shod-wheel carts and waggons; they use the ancient and still common sort of sledges and carts.—A small village



village was begun at Calder some years ago, but not improved to any height. It may contain about a score of families, consisting chiefly of tradesmen, labourers, and the servants who have the charge of the cattle.—Peat is the most common fuel. Wood, furze, broom, &c. are also used.

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## NUMBER XLIX.

## PARISH OF DESKFORD,

## (COUNTY OF BANFF.)

*By the Rev. Mr WALTER CHALMERS.*

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*Name, Situation, Surface, &c.*

ACCORDING to some, *Deisb* signifies a "Linn or Lake." As there is a small linn formed by a water-fall, a little to the north of the village, Deskford may signify the ford near the linn. According to others, *Deskford* is a corruption from *Chessfure*, which signifies "a cold south," or a "cold place to the southward." This also answers to the situation of the parish, as it lies south from the sea, and varies considerably in climate from the country along the coast. The worthy and ingenious Mr Lawtie, minister of Fordyce, thinks Deskford a corruption from Decius's Fort. His opinion is founded upon a belief, that there was a Roman station in the parish \*. Deskford was originally a part

\* Mr Lawtie has formed this opinion from Roman coins found at Deskford; remains of fosses and roads; similarity of situation to stations in England; exact distance between it and the station at Rothes (Tuissis) as mentioned in Richard's Itinerary; ancient bridge over Spey on this road; ancient name of the water of Deskford (Cullan) which is not more different from Selina (Deskford) than Ituna (now Fyvie) from Ithen Æsaca (now Brechin) from Esk, Devana (now Aberdeen) from Dee, &c.



part of the parish of Fordyce, and was included in Cullen, when that parish was disjoined from Fordyce; but the precise period when Deskford was erected into a separate parish from Cullen is not distinctly known. It appears from a decret of stipend for Fordyce, that the Union subsisted in the year 1618. The parish of Deskford lies in the presbytery of Fordyce, and Synod of Aberdeen. It is bounded upon the W. and N. by the parish of Ruthven, on the N. E. and E. by Fordyce, and on the S. and S. W. by Grange. Its length from N. to S. may be about 5 English miles; its breadth from E. to W. variable, but the greatest about 3 miles. The form of the parish is that of a strath, having hills on the E. and W. and a small opening to the S. and N. The fields lie in a sloping direction from the hills towards a small river or burn, which runs in the hollow, and has its banks covered with a variety of natural wood. From springs in the hills on each side of the strath, descend through the fields various rivulets, which empty themselves into the burn, and which are beautifully edged with natural wood. In many of these rivulets are water-falls, which, in summer floods and winter thaws, descend through the trees with great impetuosity, and exhibit many romantic and picturesque scenes.

*Hills.*—Upon the E. side of the strath is the Green Hill, which was formerly a common to the tenants, and afforded a rough kind of pasture. The late Earl of Findlater, who was the patron of farming, of manufactures, and of every measure that tended to the improvement of his country, tried to bring it into culture. With this view, it was inclosed and divided with ditch and hedge, belts of Scotch fir and alder planted, and a complete set of farm-houses built; but after considerable expence, and repeated trials,



trials, his Lordship was discouraged. The bleak situation, the bad exposure, the wetness of soil, owing to a pan beneath it, prevented the crops from filling and ripening. The inclosures are now let annually for pasture. The hedges, by great care and attention, thrive in some places; but the planting in the belts does not promise to succeed. The present Earl of Findlater, about 10 years ago, made trial of the larix fir in one of the inclosures to N. E. It thrives at present, and gives encouragement to proceed in planting under its shelter. Upon the W. side of the strath, is a hill called *Old More*, which affords, at a moderate distance, a plentiful supply of excellent peat and turf. The late Earl of Findlater parcelled out the skirts of this hill into small lots, and let them at a low rent; but the people are poor, and their improvements not substantial.

*Soil and Produce.*—The soil, along the lower parts of the Strath, is generally a loam, with a bottom of strong deep clay, and produces wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, and good crops of hay. Towards the hills, it is a light black soil, and under it, an obstinate pan. Owing to this pan, in some places, and the clay bottom in others, the fields retain the rains long; which circumstance retards the labour in the spring, and renders the crops late, especially in rainy seasons. In favourable seasons, the tenants sell considerable quantities of barley and oats to merchants in Portsoy, who export them generally to the south frith. In the parish, there are spots of moorish and waste ground, which might be improved to advantage. One of considerable extent adjoining to a farm, has been lately trenched and drained, at the expence of the heritor. This is a substantial and advantageous mode of improvement. It not only gives bread to



to the industrious, and beautifies the face of the country, but perhaps proves more lucrative to the landholder, than an extension of property. In the lower grounds, the soil seems peculiarly adapted for the growth of planting; and had the famous Dr Johnson directed his tour through Deskford, and deigned to pull down the blinds of his carriage\*, he would have seen many trees not unworthy of attention from the most prejudiced English traveller. In an orchard adjoining to an ancient castle, there is particularly an ash-tree, which measures in girth 24 feet  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It is called St John's tree, from its vicinity to a chapel of that name, to be afterwards mentioned. There is another ash in the same orchard, which measures in girth 12 feet  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, having a shank 20 feet high, of nearly the same dimensions. This ash is called Young St John. There is also a holly tree, perhaps the largest of its species in this country. It measures, at the distance of 2 feet from the ground, 8 feet  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in girth. In several places of the parish, hedges have been planted; and they also thrive amazingly, when they receive proper care and attention.—There is a quarry of limestone at Craibstown, which yields lime superior in strength and colour to any in the neighbourhood. It is consequently in great request, and affords a profitable employment to many of the tenants, in summer and autumn.

*Church, and ancient Castles.*—There is no date upon the church; one pew in it bears 1627, another 1630. It is situated nearly in the centre of the strath, and, like the generality of churches in this country, is gloomy and miserably furnished.—Close by it is an old castle, called the Tower

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\* It is said the Doctor drew up the blinds of his carriage in passing through Callen.



of Deskford, and said to have been built by the Sinclairs, who were the immediate predecessors of the Ogilvies in the property of the lordship of Deskford. It appears to have been a pretty spacious building, in the form of a court; but there now remains only one room's length, vaulted below, with 3 storeys and a garret. It bears no date.—Adjoining to this tower, there was formerly a chapel, called St John's Chapel, upon one of the walls of which there is an inscription, bearing the name of Alexander Ogilvie, with the Ogilvies arms and motto, and dated 1551.—About a mile to the S. of the church, stands the castle of Skuth, but of late years become ruinous. It is delightfully situated upon an eminence rising from the burn, having a peep of the sea, and an extensive view of the strath. On each side are water-falls from the hill, descending between rocks and fertile fields, beautifully interspersed with natural wood. This ruin is a striking object to passengers, and a beautiful vista to the surrounding inhabitants.

*Manse.*—The manse and offices, with slated roofs, were built about 5 years ago. The heritor gave a liberal allowance, indulged the incumbent with his own plan, and every accommodation he could desire; and had the undertaker done his duty, it would have been perhaps a model of abundant and genteel accommodation; but the work, in every department, is insufficiently executed. Such instances are too common, and they are exceedingly distressing, both to heritors and ministers. The heritors justly complain of the hardship of incurring new expence, after recent and liberal expenditure; and ministers must daily feel the grievance of inhabiting houses that will not defend wind and rain. Necessitated to apply for repairs, they are considered as troublesome, and sometimes loaded with much unjust



and illiberal abuse. With a view to remedy these evils, along with the contractor, an overseer should be appointed, who ought carefully to inspect the materials, and have a watchful eye over the work in all its stages. At least, if this is objected to, it ought to be a clause in the contract, that the work is not to be judged of, nor the contract discharged, until the houses have been inhabited for 12 months.

*Stipend, Glebe, School, Poor, &c.*—The glebe is about 4 acres arable, including the garden, with about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres of grass-ground. The present stipend is L. 44 : 15 :  $3\frac{4}{12}$  Sterling of money, with 24 bolls 1 firloft of barley, and the same quantity of meal at 8 s. the boll. The Earl of Findlater is patron of the church, and sole proprietor of the parish.—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 2 : 1 : 8 Sterling of money, payable by the heritor, and about 9 bolls 3 firlofts of meal payable by the tenants. In summer there are generally about 30 scholars.—The number of poor presently on the roll is 32. This uncommonly great number may be owing to the abundance of excellent moss, which has induced them to settle in its vicinity. The funds belonging to them are, the interest at 5 *per cent.* of L. 1000 Scotch, the weekly collections, which may amount to L. 8 Sterling a-year, and 6 bolls of meal given annually by the heritor. These afford only a scanty supply; but many of the women are able to earn something by spinning flax, and the men by day-labour, so that few if any of them beg.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster, about 40 years ago, was 940. At present the number of inhabitants is 752. Males, 359  
Females, 393  
Heads of families, 268

Children



|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Children above 8 years,  | 171 |
| Children under 8 years,  | 145 |
| Male servants,           | 68  |
| Female servants,         | 44  |
| Weavers,                 | 18  |
| Shoemakers,              | 8   |
| Tailors,                 | 4   |
| Wrights,                 | 2   |
| Cart and Plough wrights, | 2   |
| Wheel wrights,           | 2   |
| Masons,                  | 3   |
| Blacksmiths,             | 2   |

There are 46 persons in the parish who do not properly belong to any of the preceding descriptions. There are 2 Roman Catholics; all the rest Presbyterians. The prevailing surnames in the parish are Reid and Lawrence. Of each there are 9 families. The decrease of inhabitants may be accounted for from there having been formerly a great number of crofters and subtenants in the parish, who subsisted chiefly by manufacturing limestone. Since that time, many of the crofts have been added to the adjacent farms, and the tenants restricted to 1, 2 or 3 sublots, according to the extent of their possessions. A restriction in the manufacturing of lime also succeeded, in order to prevent the too rapid consumption of moss. These circumstances must have occasioned the removal of several families from the parish.

*State of Farming, &c.*—Improvements in farming are making some progress. The horse-hoeing husbandry has of late been introduced with success. There were about 20,000 cabbages managed in this way last season. It is computed there were 150 acres in sown grass, 30 in tur-

nips,



nips, 15 in potatoes, and 10 in lint. Though the soil in many places seems favourable for the growth of flax, it has not hitherto been extensively cultivated. The cattle are of the Scotch breed, but considerably improved in size by the culture of green crops. These are consumed in rearing young cattle, which, from the situation of the country, is found more profitable, than in fattening those that are grown. There are not many sheep, the pasture being much confined by the improvements in the hills formerly mentioned, and what remains being wet, is rather against their prosperity. Some of the English breed, and of a cross breed from them, are pastured upon the farms. Those which pasture on the hills are of a very small size. The farms are small; the largest not exceeding 100 acres arable, and the generality from 30 to 60 acres. The rent varies from L. 1, 10 s. to 2 s. the acre. The average may be 9 s. the acre. The leases are generally for 19 years, a term by far too short for spirited exertion and substantial improvement. The generality of the houses are poor and uncomfortable; and no allowance granted for meliorations. There are 2 meal-mills and 1 lint-mill in the parish. The real rent is computed to be L. 1000 Sterling a-year, including money, victual and customs.

*Bleachfield.*—In the north end of the parish, there is a bleachfield, rented by a manufacturer in Cullen, of about 10 acres in extent. At this field there are whitened yearly about 1500 pieces of cloth, and 1700 spindles of thread and yarn. Owing to a deficiency of water, the machinery is frequently wrought by horses.

*Services.*—It is reluctantly to be observed, that the tenants are bound to perform many services, such as casting, winning



winning and leading peats, ploughing and harrowing, making hay, cutting down corns, and various carriages. These services, though not exacted with rigour, are detrimental to the interest of the tenant, and consequently to that of the landholder. They often occasion interruptions to urgent domestic concerns, sometimes prevent the seasonable cultivation of the fields, and not unfrequently hazard the safety of their produce. It is astonishing, that heritors, in many respects liberal minded and indulgent to their tenants, still continue this pernicious vestige of feudal slavery.

*Wages and Prices.*—The wages of servants ‘have increased, are increasing, and, in the opinion of the farmer, ought to be diminished.’ A capable ploughman receives from L. 6 to L. 7; an inferior man-servant L. 5; and a female servant L. 2, 2 s. a-year. These gains are not now, as formerly, laid up for future support and provision, but generally expended upon dress, the desire of which has obtained great prevalence among them within these few years. The following wages are given to other labourers a-day: To a man for casting peats, 1 s. without victuals, in harvest, to a man 10 d. and to a woman 6 d. with victuals; to a day-labourer 6 d. with victuals; to a mason 1 s. 2 d.; to a common wright 8 d.; and to a tailor 6 d. with victuals. The prices of provisions have increased very considerably within these 30 years. A hen, formerly bought for 4 d. now gives from 6 d. to 8 d.; beef and mutton sell from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. the pound; haddocks, which sold within these five years at 2 d. the dozen, now give from 8 d. to 1 s. This great and sudden rise in value, is said to be owing to a scarcity of haddocks along this coast for two years past. Butter sells from 6 d. to 8 d. the



the pound, 24 ounces; and cheese from 4 s. to 5 s. the stone weight.

*Roads.*—There are 2 principal roads in the parish. Like the generality of roads in this country, they have been formed originally by far too narrow; are not kept in proper repair; and, from the nature of the soil, are very uncomfortable to travellers, especially in winter and wet seasons. They are wrought in spring and autumn by statute-labour, which the people undertake with reluctance, and perform without care. Perhaps it would be better to levy the money along with the rents, and to employ labourers, under direction of an attentive and capable overseer, during the summer season.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are in general sober, industrious, and regular in behaviour. There is but one ale-house in the parish, and which is little frequented. Though not rich, several of them are substantial in their stations. The late unfavourable seasons, with the consequent failure of crops, have reduced their circumstances in some instances. Perhaps a total abolition of services, an extension of their leases, and an allowance for building neat and comfortable houses, would tend to meliorate their situation. In consequence of their sobriety and regularity, the people are prolific and long-lived. The wife of one of the elders brought him lately 3 daughters at one birth, who are all alive, and doing well. There are 3 families consisting of eight children each, and several of 7 and of 6. The last minister died about 10 years ago, in the 88th year of his age; and there are now living in the parish one woman aged 91, another 89, and a man 88.—The parish of Deskford is a spot universally admired,



on account of its natural beauties and ancient castles. Its vicinity to the sea, and various internal advantages, particularly water, wood, moss and lime, render it one of the best tracks in the north of Scotland.

NUM.

THIS parish is situated in the province of ... drew a road from ... coal was in old times, whence the town has ... and in the town there is a large cover, ... the first and principal object of the town, ... given birth to the name of the parish. ... The extent of the parish is about ... quarter to ... bounded by the parish of ... by the same and ... the W. ... in the parish ... town, and very fertile ... water ... town is ...

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## NUMBER L.

## PARISH OF PITTENWEEM,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES NAIRNE.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil, Air, &c.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in the presbytery of St Andrew's, and Synod of Fife. There is no doubt that coal was, in old times, wrought where the town now stands; and in the town there is a large cove, anciently called a *weem*. The pits produced by the working of the coal, and the striking natural object of the cove or weem, may have given birth to the name of the parish. Whether Pittenweem originally was a parish or not, is uncertain. The extent of the parish is about an English mile and a quarter in length, and about half a mile in breadth. It is bounded by the parish of Anstruther-Wester on the E.; by the same and Carnbee on the N.; and by St Monance on the W.; the frith of Forth bounds it on the S. The grounds in the parish are flat; the soil is in general black and loamy, and very fertile; the air is dry and healthy; the water remarkably soft, while that of the neighbouring towns is hard and brackish. The most prevalent distemper



among the inhabitants, is the *phthisis pulmonalis*, or consumption.

*Fish, Shipping, &c.*—The fish caught here have of late years been in much smaller number than formerly. Quantities are sometimes sent to the Edinburgh market. Within these few months, a plan was formed for catching turbot with nets, and so getting them alive to send up to London; but the trials have not been as yet very successful. A considerable quantity of lobsters are caught here and in the neighbourhood, and sent to London.—The people here are generally fond of a seafaring life, but few have entered the navy as volunteers. They in general discover an aversion to the army, and I do not think more than 2 or 3 from the parish have enlisted during the last 30 years. At present the number of boats is only 5, and of vessels 4. From a record of the town, it appears that prior to 1639, the shipping here was considerable. From that year to the 1645, the town suffered greatly in that article. It appears from that record, that there belonged at least to the town 13 sail of large vessels; all of which were either taken by the enemy, wrecked, or sold in consequence of the death of the commanders and mariners at the battle of Kilsyth.

*Coal, &c.*—The whole surface of the parish is supposed to cover a continued field of coal, which lies in a very extraordinary way, first taking one direction, then a contrary one, with different dippings. The property of it belongs to Sir John Anstruther. When it began to be wrought is uncertain. It is believed to have been wrought by Oliver Cromwell, who took possession of the Earl of Kelly's estate, of which it then formed a part; and a pit is still to be seen, that goes by the name of Cromwell's pit. In past times, as much coal was taken out as could be procured without



a fire engine. After the working had been long discontinued, Sir John Anstruther, about 20 years ago, erected a fire engine, and has since that period put out an immense quantity of coal, and made salt to a large extent. There are 9 salt-pans. The average expence for the coal and salt working is about L. 50 weekly. The colliers are all free, stand engaged by the year, and are paid in proportion to the work they respectively perform. A good and laborious collier will earn about 18 s. a-week.

*Population*.—According to Dr Webster, the number was 939. At present it is 1157, all residing in the town, except 4 families. Males, 541; females, 616; that is, nearly 30 females for 27 males. The disproportion between the number of males and females, may be owing to a number of the young men betaking themselves to a seafaring life; and there being no shipping here, although there is a seaport, many of them fix the residence for their families at the places from whence they sail, and so cease to appear on the parish-roll. Besides, no manufactures being carried on in this place and neighbourhood, induces another class of youngmen to repair to those towns where manufactures flourish, and to settle there. The females are generally stationary. The average of births is 37, of deaths 25; from which it appears, that multiplying births by 26, and deaths by 36, will produce numbers that would fall short of the actual population.

|                                             |   |                  |
|---------------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| From 1684 to 1690, the average of births is | - | 43               |
| From 1699 to 1709,                          | - | 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| From 1709 to 1719,                          | - | 34               |
| From 1719 to 1729,                          | - | 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| From 1729 to 1739,                          | - | 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| From 1739 to 1746,                          | - | 28               |
| From 1751 to 1761,                          | - | 21               |
|                                             |   | From             |



From 1761 to 1771, the average of births is 20

From 1771 to 1780, 30

From 1780 to 1790, 37

From this it appears, that the population at the end of the last century was greater than at present, and was double what it was at the middle of the current century. The failure of the herring-fishing, and of the French and East Country trade, diminished, and the erection of Sir John Anstruther's coal and salt works has increased the population. The average of marriages is 7.

The number of souls under 10 years of age, is 260

From 10 to 20, 200

From 20 to 30, 439

From 30 to 40, 224

From 40 to 50, 34

The number of handicraftsmen, is 78

— Of apprentices, 15

— Of seamen, 72

— Of fishermen, 12

— Of miners and colliers, 36

— Of household servants, 49

— Of labouring servants, 8

— Of persons born in England, and the

British colonies, 10

— Of persons born in other parishes, about 400

— Of the Established Church, 1024

— Of Seceders, 10

— Of Episcopalians, 23

The population has increased very considerably within these

25 years, owing to the colliery and salt-works. The pro-

portion between the annual births and whole population,

is as 1 to 31; between the annual marriages and whole

population, as 1 to 165; between the annual deaths and

whole population, as 1 to 46; between bachelors and mar-

ried



ried men, (meaning by a bachelor, a man at the age of 25, and a householder), as 1 to 18. Marriages, at an average, produce about 4 children. The number of inhabited houses is 185, and the average of inhabitants for each exceeds 6, and does not reach 7.

*Agriculture.*—Formerly the whole lands in the parish were employed in raising corn. Two-thirds of the ground was sown with rough bear, and the remaining third with wheat, oats, peas and beans. Still a larger proportion of bear and barley is sown than of any other grain. Of late years green crops have been introduced. Fields are laid down with clover and rye-grass; cabbages and kail are raised in the fields, for winter food. The average rent of lands may be L. 1, 15 s. an acre. For the best, L. 2 : 12 : 6 is paid. The land is generally not inclosed, and the rent is such, that the proprietors imagine the increase would not be a sufficient compensation for the expence of inclosing.

*Stipend, Church, Poor, &c.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, and converting the victual at 10 s. the boll (which is rather a low conversion) is L. 82. The patron is Sir John Anstruther. When the church was built is uncertain. It certainly was not originally intended for a church. Concerning it there are two traditions, one of which is, that it was some of the cloisters of an abbey, and the other, that it was the large barn or granary where the corns of the abbey were deposited, which last seems probable. The manse was built about the 1720, and received reparations afterwards. There are 22 proprietors, 7 of these are communities, viz. 3 kirk-sessions, 2 sea and 2 trade societies; 10 of the heritors reside in the burgh.—The number of poor in the parish is proportionally great. At the two last general distributions,



tions, upwards of 60 received charity. The funds for their support, arising from lands and weekly collections, are from L. 50 to L. 60 Sterling yearly. The sailors have a fund, considerably above L. 100 a-year, for the support of their own poor. They are able to make a very decent provision for the widows, both of shipmasters, and of common mariners. This society obtained about 6 years ago a royal charter. The trades have likewise a fund for their poor, which I believe is about L. 20 a-year. There are other two charitable societies, but they are still in infancy, and their annual produce is inconsiderable, but from the nature of them they must grow. One of these societies is formed by the people connected with the colliery. This seems to be a most laudable and humane institution, as accidents often happen at collieries, and it were to be wished that it generally obtained at all public works.

*Prices and Wages.*—The prices of provisions are nearly doubled within these 30 years. Beef, veal, mutton, lamb and pork, are generally sold at 4 d. the lb.; geese, at 2 s. 6 d.; ducks, at 8 d.; hens at 11 d.; and rabbits at 3 d.; butter is generally 8 d. the lb.; grain is generally 2 s. the boll below the Mid Lothian fiars. The fuel made use of is coal, and the price of 400 weight is 1 s. 3 d. carriage included. The wages of domestic female servants are generally L. 2, 10 s. a-year.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people in general are economical. Land is often changing proprietors, and the general price is 25 years purchase. The people do enjoy the comforts of society, and are contented with their situation.—The roads in the parish are very indifferent. They



They are kept in repair by the statute-labour, which is generally commuted. Last session of Parliament passed a bill for turnpike roads in Fife, and the great road from E. to W. will pass along by this town.—Kelp is made here, and the average quantity is 8 tons yearly.—The island of Mey, where a light is regularly kept, was a part of the priory, and is in the lordship of Pittenweem.—The principal bay nearest this is Largo Bay, and the safest harbour is Ely, 2 miles farther up the frith than Pittenweem.—One of the fleet of the Spanish Armada came to this coast in great distress, and put in to the harbour of Anstruther Easter, where the people were hospitably treated.—In the year 1779, Paul Jones, with his little squadron, lay for several hours off this harbour, about half a mile from the shore. The pilot and his crew went off, believing they were British ships, and requested some powder, which was given. The crew were permitted immediately to return, but the pilot was detained, treated very uncivilly, and was not set at liberty, until after the engagement Paul Jones had with our fleet.—There is a limestone loch to the westward of the town, which produces a considerable quantity of lime annually.—The cove or weem within the burgh is situated half way between the beach and an old abbey. It is large and capacious, consisting of 2 apartments. At the further end of the inner one, there is a well of excellent water. At the junction of the two apartments, there is a stone-stair, which carried you up a little way to a subterraneous passage, which led to the abbey, where was another stair, which landed in the great dining hall of the abbey. The two stairs still remain; but of late years the subterraneous passage was destroyed, by the impending earth sinking, and cutting off the communication. The subterraneous passage,



passage, I think, might be about 50 yards in length. —Dr Douglas, the present Bishop of Salisbury, was born, and received the first principles of his education here. His father was in the mercantile line.—Pittenweem was constituted a royal burgh, by a charter from King James V. in 1547. In the town's charter-chest there are many old writings, which I cannot decipher. The following extract from their records I transmit :

*' Pittenweem, decimo-quarto Feb. 1651.*

*' The bailies and council being convened, and having received information that his Majesty is to be in progress with his court along the coast to-morrow, and to stay at Anstruther house that night, have thought it expedient, according to their bounden duty, with all reverence and due respect, and with all the solemnity they can, to wait upon his Majesty, as he comes through this his Majesty's burgh, and invite his Majesty to eat and drink as he passes; and for that effect, hath ordained, that the morn afternoon, the town's colours be put upon the bertifene of the steeple, and that at three o'clock the bells begin to ring, and ring on still till his Majesty comes hither, and passes to Anstruther: And sikklike, that the minister be spoken to, to be with the bailies and council, who are to be in their best apparel, and with them a guard of twenty-four of the ablest men, with partizans, and other twenty-four with musquets, all in their best apparel, William Sutherland commanding as captain of the guard; and to wait upon his Majesty, and to receive his Highness at the West Port, bringing his Majesty and court through the town, until they come to Robert Smith's yeet, where an table is to be covered with my Lord's best carpet; and that George Hetherwick have in readines of fine flour, some*  
*' great*



' great bunnis, and other wheat-bread of the best order,  
 ' baken with sugar, cannell and other spices fitting; and  
 ' that James Richardson and Walter Airth have care to  
 ' have ready eight or ten gallons of good strong ale, with  
 ' Canary, sack, Rhenish wine, tent, white and claret wines,  
 ' that his Majesty and his court may eat and drink; and that  
 ' in the mean time, when his Majesty is present, the guard  
 ' do diligently attend about the court, and so soon as his  
 ' Majesty is to go away, that a sign be made to Andrew  
 ' Tod, who is appointed to attend the colours on the steeple  
 ' head, to the effect he may give sign to those who attend  
 ' the cannon of his Majesty's departure, and then the hail  
 ' thirty-six cannons to be all shot at once. It is also thought  
 ' fitting, that the minister, and James Richardson the oldest  
 ' bailie, when his Majesty comes to the table, shew the great  
 ' joy and sence this burgh has of his Majesty's condescend-  
 ' ence to visit the same, with some other expressions of  
 ' loyalty. All which was acted.'



## NUMBER LI.

## PARISH OF DUNSE.

## (COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

*By the Rev. Dr. ROBERT BOWMAKER.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil and Air.*

**B**ERWICKSHIRE is nominally divided into three districts, the Merse, Lammermoor and Lauderdale. The Merse is that flat part of the county, which is bounded by the river Tweed on the S. and S. E.; by part of Tiviotdale and Lauderdale on the S. W. and W. and by the Lammermoor hills on the N. W. and N. with the town of Berwick at the east point. It is a plain of at least 25 miles from E. to W. and 15 from N. to S. and takes the name of Merse from being a border county. At the head of this plain, and in the very centre of the county, stands the town of Dunse, encompassed on the W. N. and E. by the Lammermoor hills. Its name is derived from the old Celtic word *Dun*, 'a hill,' its original site having been on the top of a most beautiful little hill, which is called Dunse Law. This hill stands upon a base of between 2 and 3 miles in circumference, and rises in a gradual ascent on all sides, till it terminates in a plain of nearly 30 acres; the whole hill may contain about 250 acres. It is 630 feet above the level of the



the sea. Afterwards the town was built at the foot of the hill, on the S. where it now stands. Dunfe is the presbytery-seat of that name, and belongs to the Synod of Merse and Tiviotdale.—The parish is an oblong square of 8 miles from N. to S. and 5 from E. to W. It is bounded on the N. by the parish of Abbey St Bathan's, on the N. W. by Longformachus, on the W. and S. by Langtoun, on the S. E. by Edrom, and on the E. and N. E. by Preston and Bunkle. That part of the parish which runs up into Lammermoor is hilly, and very much covered with heath; and those tracks of it which are cultivated are, in general, a sharp, gravelly, dry soil, on which the tenants grow very good barley, oats, turnip and clover. In the south part of it, the soil is a rich, light, deep loam, some of it a strong clay, and very fertile.—The air is dry and healthy. The ague was a very prevalent distemper about 40 years ago, and also the putrid fever, which last, in some particular years, cut off a great number of the inhabitants; but in consequence of the rapid improvements in agriculture, begun at first by the gentlemen, and followed up with great spirit by the tenants, the country has been much drained, and the climate greatly changed. The cleaning of the streets of the town, and of ditches in parks adjoining to it on the south, has also greatly contributed to the health of the inhabitants. It may be remarked also, that 40 years ago, when the ague was very prevalent in the Merse, it was not known in Lammermoor, nor is yet.

*Dunfe Spaw.*—There are no mineral springs in the parish. But there is one within a very few yards of the boundary, on the south, in the estate of Mrs Carr of Nisbet, in the parish of Edrom. It is called Dunfe Spaw, from its vicinity to the town, being only a mile distant. It was discovered in 1747, and was very much resorted to for several



veral years. Some years ago, it was repaired at the expence of a gentleman, who was cured of a stomach disorder, by the Spaw water. This mineral water is nearly of the same kind with that of Tunbridge, the most celebrated chalybeate water in England. Dunse Spaw, according to the analysis of it, published by Professor Home at Edinburgh, 1761, contains iron, sea-salt, a marley earth, and fixed air, or what is called aerial acid. Like most other chalybeate waters, it does not carry well, unless the usual methods are practised, in transporting the foreign chalybeate waters. Although the water may be thus carried to a great distance, without losing its properties in a considerable degree, yet it must unquestionably be drunk with greater advantage on the spot. This water is found very salutary in complaints of the stomach, weakness of the intestines, diabetes, and a great variety of other disorders. The best months for drinking Dunse Spaw, are June, July, August, and September, when the valitudinarian, and persons subject to chronic disorders, may, by a course of these waters, reap every advantage to be procured by any chalybeate water whatever.

*River.*—The water of Whitadder abounds in trout, but of no high flavour, nor rich in quality. There is also in this river a larger sort of fish, called a whitling; it is a large fine trout, from 16 inches to 2 feet long, and well grown; its flesh is red, and high coloured, like salmon, and of full as fine a flavour; it is a most delicate fish, and affords most excellent sport to the angler. It goes to the sea in its season, and returns strong, vigorous, and healthy; but if, from the smallness of the river in a dry season, it is prevented from getting to the sea, it becomes lank, small, and spiritless, and loses its red colour and flavour. The Whitadder falls into the Tweed, about 12 miles E. from Dunse,  
and



and 3 miles above Berwick. From the Tweed, which abounds in fine salmon, a great many of these fish get into the Whitadder, and in the months of September and October are found 30 miles up that river, passing into the small brooks among the hills in Lammermoor, till their backs are not covered, and there lodge their spawn among the gravel. No part of the Whitadder is rented, and the fishes are killed with the rod or lister.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, about 40 years ago, the numbers were 2593. Within these 60 years last past, the number of inhabitants in the town of Dunse has been doubled; and though the town has not in that time extended itself much to any of its wings, yet many empty spaces have been built upon, and many old houses, which contained only 1 or 2 families, have been rebuilt upon larger plans, and now contain from 4 to 8, and some of them 10 families. There are scarce any vestiges of old houses. Many new ones have been built of late years, and several are now building. By a very exact list, taken 3 years ago, the number of souls in the town was 2324; in the country part of the parish, 1000. In all, 3324.

*Abstract of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, for ten years.*

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Baptisms.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Deaths.</i> |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1780          | 93               | 63                | 61             |
| 1781          | 84               | 59                | 85             |
| 1782          | 58               | 42                | 95             |
| 1783          | 114              | 47                | 59             |
| 1784          | 97               | 39                | 70             |
| 1785          | 89               | 44                | 30             |
| 1786          | 91               | 53                | 61             |
| 1787          | 86               | 32                | 64             |
| 1788          | 95               | 39                | 43             |
| 1789          | 98               | 37                | 51             |

In



In the 1782, the small-pox raging, accounts for the number of deaths that year. In 1733, there were 130 children, who died of the small-pox in the space of 3 months. In 1783, one man died at the age of 99, whose baptism is recorded in the register now before me, in 1684. Another, a pauper, died this year, aged 93. There are now living in the town 12 persons, between 80 and 90. One 90, who supports his family by his own labour, and enjoys as good health, and has as fine a flow of spirits as any person at the age of 25. Another, in my own family, (my father), who was born the 4th of July 1694, and is at present (April 1791) in perfect health, and going about. There is 1 physician, 3 surgeons, and 8 gentlemen of the law in the town. There is an Antiburgher, a Burgher, and a Relief minister, whose congregations are made up of a mixed multitude from all quarters. Three weekly carriers to Edinburgh, 1 to Kelso, 1 to Dunbar, 1 to Eyemouth, 2 to Berwick, twice a week.

*Agriculture, &c.*—There are 14 tenants in the parish, who rent from L. 100 to L. 300 a-year; and about the same number, who rent from L. 30 to L. 100. The parish is in general inclosed. The bondages to which the tenants were formerly subjected are now entirely done away; there is nothing but rent to be paid. Wheat, barley, and oats, are the principal crops of grain; turnips are raised in great quantities, and turn to good account, in feeding sheep and black cattle, and let from L. 4, 4s. to L. 5, 5s. an acre; and in the immediate neighbourhood of Dunse, are let from L. 5, 5s. to L. 7, 7s. and are used in the town chiefly for milch cows. Cabbages are also planted in considerable quantities, and are more suitable for cows than turnips are, as they do not scour the cattle so much; and if the spoiled leaves of the cabbages are taken off, the milk, cream, and  
butter



butter will be as good as from grafs; besides, the spoiled leaves may be given to young cattle, and nothing is lost. Potatoes too are raised in great quantities, and the land for them is let from L. 4 to L. 6 an acre; the proprietor or tenant only ploughs it, and the renter cleans them, digs them up, and carries them home. A great deal of grafs-seeds are sown annually, but little flax is raised, and no hemp. Very great improvements are making in the breed of sheep and black cattle. In the S. part of the parish, the lands are let from 15 s. to L. 1 an acre; in the N. part, which is high ground, the land is not let by the acre, but a cumulus rent is paid for the whole farm. Such has been the spirit of improvement within these last 50 years, that farms in the parish, which were let at L. 35 and L. 40, pay now L. 210, and the tenants doing well. In no county of Great Britain is there a more respectable tenantry, than there is at present in the county of Berwick; many of them rent from L. 500 to L. 1200 a-year; men well informed in science, and most intelligent and industrious in their profession; and in every 10 or 15 years, some of them are purchasing property of L. 200, and even L. 500 a-year; on which they enjoy, *otium cum dignitate*, the just reward of their attention, labour, diligence, and good sense; and all this under the great disadvantages, of being distant from 10 to 20 miles from lime and markets, and in a county where victual is cheaper than in any county in Scotland. There is plenty of marl, but lime, though distant, is considered as a cheaper manure. The county of Berwick exports from the ports of Berwick and Eyemouth, above 80,000 bolls of victual, and fully the same quantity is carried annually to the weekly markets of Edinburgh, Dalkeith, Haddington, and Dunbar. Land is sold from L. 30 to L. 80 an acre. Houses are rented from 10 s. to L. 20. Property does not often change, either in lands or houses.

*Manufactures.*



*Manufactures.*—There are no manufactures carried on here to any great extent; an woollen manufacture is to be set on foot at Whitsunday first, the houses are building, and the spinning machines are already brought from England. There is a very small tannery; but it is in contemplation to have one soon upon a large scale by a subscription, in shares of at least L. 25 the share, by the inhabitants. Hides to the extent of L. 400 a-year have been bought here by commission, and sent to Haddington, where they are tanned, the expence of carriage, L. 33. We have here a very large bleachfield.

*Proprietors, &c.*—The number of heritors is above 40, 12 of whom possess property from L. 100 to L. 2000 a-year in the parish; the rest are small portioners, from 1 to 30 or 40 acres; only a few of the principal heritors reside. Robert Hay, Esq; of Drumelzier is proprietor of one half of the parish; he resides at Dunse castle, a large stately venerable old building, situated about half a mile above the town, and commanding an extensive view to the south, as far as the Cheviot hills. It is surrounded with rising grounds on the west and north, and the beautiful hill of Dunse Law on the north east. On the north and west too, are several hundred acres of thriving planting, much of it very old. In the bosom of this plantation is a fine bason of water called the hen-pond; it is above a mile in circumference, and in summer vast numbers of wild ducks resort to it.

*Stipend, School and Poor.*—The stipend is 66 bolls 1 firlof barley, 66 bolls 1 firlof oats, 64 bolls meal, and L. 40 in money, with  $91\frac{1}{2}$  acres glebe. Mr Hay of Drumelzier is patron. A most complete and excellent manse was built in 1783. A new church is now building on a large scale,



scale, and most elegant plan.—The school of Dunse has long been in very great repute. The number of scholars is from 90 to 100, 60 or 70 of whom are learning the languages, the others are learning writing, arithmetic, mathematics, &c. The fees for the languages are 5 s. the quarter; 3 s. 6 d. for writing and arithmetic, and 2 s. 6 d. for English; book-keeping, and the higher parts of mathematics and navigation, are taught by the piece at a certain agreed sum. The salary is L. 12, and a house well calculated for accommodating boarders. The board is only L. 16 a-year. There is also a female boarding school, where every branch of female education can be got on the following terms: Reading and plain white seam together, at 5 s. the quarter; tambour and coloured work, and embroidery at 7 s. 6 d.; music at 10 s. 6 d. the month, or L. 5, 5 s. a-year; writing 5 s. and dancing 6 s. the month; board L. 16 a-year. The present directrix has a salary of L. 18 from the heritors, and other inhabitants, for a certain number of years.—The number of poor upon the roll is at present 90, the annual amount of the contributions for their relief is L. 230. There are no legacies, nor mortified money. The funds for their support arise, 1st, from an assessment upon the lands, according to the valued rent, the one half paid by the landlords, and the other by the tenants; at present it is 12 month cels upon the lands. 2dly, The several incorporations pay quarterly into the fund, L. 3 : 9 : 6 Sterling. 3dly, The unincorporated, viz. the surgeons, lawyers, merchants, publicans, &c. are assessed annually by themselves; that assessment at present is L. 3, 19 s. the quarter. The session also pay a proportion of their collections weekly into the general fund. These several funds are collected by an overseer of the poor, appointed by the heritors. When at any time the fund is unequal to the expenditure, a meet-



ing of the heritors is called, and an additional assessment is laid on, (but only upon the heritors and tenants), proportioned to the demand. Every pauper who comes upon the roll must give in an assignation to all the effects belonging to them. The poor too are buried at the expence of the fund, amounting to 17 s. each, if adults.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—About 50 years ago, the prices of provisions were greatly below what they are at this time; butcher meat was not then sold by weight, but when weighed after having been bought, was found not to exceed  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. the lb. Dutch weight for beef, mutton, and pork; lamb was bought at 6 d. and 7 d. the quarter. At present beef and mutton are 4 d. pork  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. veal from 3 d. to 5 d. and lamb, even in July, is never below 3 d. the lb.; at present (the beginning of April) it is 1 s. the lb. Wheat is from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 12 s.; barley from 12 s. to 16 s. and oats from 10 s. to 14 s. the boll upon an average; but the Berwickshire boll is a 24th part, or  $\frac{1}{2}$  peck in the boll, larger than the Linlithgow measure used in the Lothians. The farmers servants who have families, and engage by the year, are called hinds, and receive 10 bolls oats, 2 bolls barley, and 1 boll peas, which two last articles are called hummel corn, a cow grazed in the summer, and straw through the winter,  $\frac{1}{4}$  boll potatoes planted, some lintseed sown, with some other small considerations, the whole amounting to about L. 13. A single man servant receives from L. 6 to L. 8 a-year, with victuals, but few single servants are now employed. Labourers, by the day, are paid 1 s. in summer, and 9 d. and 10 d. in the winter quarter; in hay-time, 1 s. 6 d. without victuals, except a bottle of ale at noon, and another in the afternoon, with  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. worth of bread to each. In harvest, the wages of a man are from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. with victuals,



victuals, thoſe of a woman, 10 d. and 1 s.. The wages of a maſon are from 1 s. 4 d. to 2 s. the day, a carpenter from 1 s. to 1 s. 8 d. The wages received by the different claſſes are fully ſufficient for the ſupport of their families; and ſuch as are ſober, and have been fortunate in getting induſtrious wives, ſometimes ſave conſiderably. When any fall into want from bad health or miſfortune, they receive an interim aliment from the poor's funds; they are often relieved and ſupported by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants at large. Upon the diſtreſs of any family, two of their neighbours, by going through the town with a ſubſcription paper, will, in a few hours, collect ſeveral pounds. Women ſervants have from L. 3 to L. 4 a-year. This being a border county, is the cauſe of the high wages of the labourers, &c.

*Ale-houſes.*—There are no fewer than 27 ale-houſes in the town of Dunſe, many of which are kept by low people, who do not depend upon their retail altogether, but who carry on, at the ſame time, ſome other profeſſion, or rather from a ſpirit of indolence, they keep an ale-houſe, to help the emoluments of the profeſſion they followed; which profeſſion, in conſequence of the habit of idleneſs and drunkenneſs which they have contracted, is ſoon in a great meaſure laid aſide, and the family reduced to beggary. It is, in conſequence of people of this deſcription keeping ale-houſes, that others of the ſame ſtation are induced, from old acquaintance with them, to frequent their houſes, and which frequently grows into ſuch a habit, as greatly to hurt the circumſtances, and diſturb the peace of their families. Beſides, 'tis in houſes of this ſort, that the profligate of both ſexes find lodging, where they get intoxicated, and from whence they ſally forth, in the dark hours of the night, to commit depredations on the innocent,



cent, virtuous and unsuspecting members of the community. 'Tis in these houses also that they deposit the fruits of their depredations, and are furnished with means of future intoxication. It is a laudable practice (authorised by law) which several counties have of late adopted, not to allow any person to take out a licence to keep an ale-house, without that person shall produce, from the minister, a certificate of his moral character. At the same time, we have publicans here, in high repute, who have the best accommodations, and where as good entertainment can be got as in any place in Great Britain.

*Post-office.*—Formerly the Dunse bag came by Oldcambus to Dunse, afterwards the office was removed from Oldcambus to the Prefs, and, of late years, has been removed to Berwick, by which circuitous conveyance, our Edinburgh letters are charged 4 d. instead of 3 d. in consequence of the distance round by Berwick, being more than 50 miles. But though the bag for the convenience of the post-office is now sent on to Berwick, and the distance by that means increased, there is no reason that we should pay more for our letters now, than we would have done, had they continued to be sent from the Prefs. Besides, the letters to Kelso go also by Berwick, which is farther from Berwick than Dunse; the inhabitants of that town, upon an application to the General Post-office at Edinburgh, got a deduction of a fourth upon their Edinburgh letters, but the memorial from the town of Dunse upon the same subject was treated with fullen silence. The letters also have been accustomed to be delivered, time immemorial, to the inhabitants to whom they were addressed, at their houses; but of late years the man who holds the office here, has made a demand of 1 d. more than the postage, for the letters delivered by him. We have



have presented a memorial upon this also, to the Post-master General at Edinburgh, in which we shewed how the law stood, and the several instances in which it had been decided in the Courts of England against the post-masters, but no redress has been obtained. We have at last sent a copy of the same memorial to the Post-master General at London, with the different cases referred to; and the only answer which we have got, which was in the middle of March, was, that the memorial was under consideration: As that is likely to be all the answer which we are to get, we have resolved to demand that justice from the laws of the land, which our fellow subjects have received, and which these offices have refused us.

*Hills.*—Cockburn Law rises from a base of at least 6 miles in circumference to a conical top, which, on the north and south sides, is a mile from the base, and is surrounded by the river Whitadder on 3 sides. On the north side, and a little below the middle of the hill, are the ruins of a very old building, by some called Wooden's hall, but commonly called Edin's or Edwin's hall. It consists of 3 concentric circles, the diameter of the innermost 40 feet, the thickness of the wall 7 feet, the space between the innermost and the second wall 7 feet, between that and the third or outer wall 10 feet; the spaces between these walls have been arched over, and divided into cells of 12, 16 and 20 feet long; they seem to have been of considerable height, but as all the roofs have long since fallen in, the height cannot be precisely ascertained. The space within the inner circle seems never to have had any roof, as there are no fragments nor ruins there. The building is not cemented with any sort of mortar; the stones, which are whin, and many of them very large, are all grooved into one another, that is, the concavity of  
the



the one receiving the convexity of the other, so that they are locked together, and yet all these locks are different: It is supposed to have been a Pictish building, and afterwards used as a military station. What the original name was, we have no tradition of; but in after times, it has gone by the name of Edin or Edwin's hall, from a Prince of that name, who was King of Northumberland, and whose dominions extended as far north as the frith of Forth. From this Prince the city of Edinburgh took its name. It would appear that Edwin had taken possession of this strong post, for a military station, for an army of observation, as the Danes were frequently invading Scotland, both by sea and land. There are several of these military stations in this neighbourhood, both to the east and west of Cockburn Law. This hill, being 900 feet above the level of the sea, is a fine land-mark for mariners on the German Ocean, and is seen at a great distance from that sea, consequently any fleet from the north would be easily and readily descried from that station.

*Learned Men.*—The celebrated metaphysician and theologist, John Duns Scotus, was born in Dunse in 1274. Camden, in his *Britannia*, and the authors of the *Biographia Britannica* contend that he was born at Dunstone in Northumberland, but bring no argument, but their bare assertion to support it. Nothing is more certain, than that the family, of which this extraordinary man was a branch, were heritors of the parish of Dunse, and continued to be proprietors of that estate which now belongs to Mr Christie, till after the beginning of the present century, called from them in all ancient writings Duns's half of Grueldykes. These lands are adjoining to the town of Dunse. The father of John Duns Scotus had been a younger brother of the family of Grueldykes, and resided in the town



town of Dunse. The site of the house where he was born is still well known, and has been in use, generation after generation, to be pointed out to the young people by their parents, as the birth place of so great and learned a man.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In 1782-3, when victual was at a very high price, the heritors, and other inhabitants in good circumstances, contributed very largely for the support of the poor and indigent, and sold at least 20 bolls weekly, from the 3d of December 1782, to the middle of August 1783, at one-third below the market-price. The inhabitants are humane and generous to all real objects. They are also industrious and economical, and contented with their situation and circumstances.—There is a public library in Dunse, which was established in 1768, consisting of about 60 shares, at L. 2 a share, and 6 s. a-year; the shares are transferable, like any other property. From the original L. 2 for each share, and the 6 s. also advanced for the year's reading, we were enabled to buy at once near L. 150 worth of books, and from L. 12 to L. 15 has been expended annually upon books ever since that period.—There are 3 great fairs in Dunse. At these is a very great shew of fine cattle and horses. At least L. 20,000 Sterling is received for cattle at these fairs, which are chiefly purchased by English dealers. There is also a good deal of sheep.—The roads were originally made and kept up by the statute-labour, except the two great roads from Edinburgh to London, the one by Greenlaw and Coldstream, the other by the Prefs and Berwick, which were made by sums borrowed by the gentlemen of the county upon the turnpikes. The statute-labour is now commuted at 7 s. 6 d. each horse, and 3 s. on householders. The question respecting turnpikes on the great roads to coal and lime, and the



the two ports of Berwick and Eyemouth, is now agitating among the proprietors, but not yet settled.—There was a considerable common in the environs of Dunse, consisting of several hundred acres, a few years ago, that has been divided; by which a large piece of land, which had been for ages past an eye-sore to every traveller, and of no value to any, is now an ornament to the neighbourhood, and profitable to many.—We have abundance of freestone quarries in the parish, and also in the neighbourhood, the rock lying from 3 feet to 10 below the surface. There is also an inexhaustible fund of whinstone within a mile of the town, all above ground, lying in immense large slabs, one upon another, and may be broken into the shape of flags, with the least trouble, and of any size. We are 15 miles distant from coal,—and bring them all from Northumberland, as also our lime.—On the 18th September 1790, was found, 3 miles S. E. from Dunse, a bird very rare in Scotland. It was killed by a cat, and discovered to be the bird called Hoopoe by the English, Wedhop by the Germans, the Upupa of the ancients, described by Pliny, Aristotle, Pausanias, Ælian, &c. The bird is common in Germany, and sometimes even in England. A few days after, another Upupa, of a greener colour, was seen flying about the garden at Kimmergham, but soon disappeared.—There is a very remarkable wall in the parish, inclosing near 100 acres of ground, called Borthwick Park, belonging to the family of Langton; it is of moorstone, without any sort of mortar, and never had any covering, either of sod or any thing else; it has stood 179 years, and never was known to need any repair till within these 4 years; and though it is but low, yet, in consequence of the unevenness of its texture, and the ruggedness of its top, neither horses nor cattle ever ventured to leap it.



NUMBER LII.

PARISH OF ALVAH,

(COUNTY OF BANFF.)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE SANGSTER.*

*Situation, Surface, &c.*

THE parish of Alvah is situated in the presbytery of Turriff, and Synod of Aberdeen. Its form is irregular; extending in length about 6 English miles, and at its greatest breadth to nearly the same distance, but in other places to only 3 or 2. On the N. and N. W. it is bounded by the parish of Banff; on the S. W. by Mar- noch; on the S. by Forglen; on the S. E. by Turriff; and on the E. and N. E. by King Edward and Gamery. The river Dovert enters this parish about a mile below Forglen, the seat of Lord Banff, and after many beautiful windings through a very fertile valley, leaves it about 2 miles from the sea. It abounds with salmon, trout, and eel, and is frequented by wild ducks, widgeons, teals, herons, &c. On the E. bank lie the estates of Dunlugas and Inrichney, separated by the intervention of a part of the parish of King Edward; and on the W. the lands of Mountblairie, Auchinbadie, Sandlaw, and a small part of



the barony of Alvah. About half a mile below the church, the river is contracted by 2 steep and rugged precipices, which are commonly denominated the Craigs of Alvah, where it measures about 50 feet in depth. The scenery, which is naturally bold and picturesque, has been greatly embellished by its noble proprietor, the Earl of Fife, by thriving plantations, and a magnificent arch, which unites both sides of the river, and forms an easy communication between the opposite parts of his Lordship's extensive park. The fruitful haughs along the banks of the river are subject to frequent inundations, which, in summer and harvest, make dreadful depredations among the corns. This inconvenience is more especially felt in the neighbourhood of the rocks of Alvah, which, during a flood, check the rapidity of the stream, and make the water flow backward for nearly 2 miles, and spread more than a quarter of a mile over the adjacent fields. As we recede from the river toward the W. the country becomes more hilly and barren. Of these eminences, one of the most conspicuous is the Hill of Alvah, which rises from the bed of the river to a very great height, and serves as a common landmark to mariners, on their approach to the coast. The majestic appearance of this mountain, which is somewhat increased by the view of the church, manse, school, and a farmstead on its E. brow, is thus described by an indigenous poet.

*Erigit ad nubes hic se mons Alvius ingens,  
 Ostentatque procul conspicienda juga.  
 Hic quoque Templâ Deûm surgunt in monte locata  
 Sublimi; surgit Pieridumque domus.*

*Agriculture, &c.*—The air of this parish is in general dry and healthy. Its soil, along both sides of the river, is very fertile; deep on the haughs, and more shallow on the declivities.



declivities. Nor are there wanting fruitful fields on the upper grounds, interspersed amongst the rough pastures and heath, which still occupy a very considerable part. The crops which are commonly cultivated are oats, barley, and peas; and on some of the richer and more sheltered spots, wheat has been tried with success. Turnip, for 20 years past, has been sown in the fields; and clover and rye-grass have become a constant part of the rotation. Feeding for the butcher is carried on by a few; but rearing young cattle has of late years been found a more lucrative branch, and by consequence more generally practised. As farms are not commonly let by the acre, it cannot be said with accuracy what value is put upon each. The best arable ground may rent about L. 1, or perhaps somewhat higher; a still greater quantity about 15 s. and much more about 12 s. or 10 s. and even below that value. There are only a few farms inclosed, nor does that mode of melioration keep pace with the other species of improvement. Hedges do not thrive, unless in places which are sheltered, as well as fertile. Feal or earthen fences have been found of short duration, and stone fences are expensive. But, though inclosures are not so frequent as might be wished, the practice of herding in winter is general; so that the turnip and sown grasses sustain little detriment from straggling cattle. Several of the farms are already brought to a very high degree of cultivation, and others are advancing by gradual progress to a like state of improvement. About the year 1747, the minister began to bring home his peats in carts, valued each at 4 s. 6 d. Before that period the fuel was carried in creels, and the corns in curracks; two implements of husbandry which, in this corner, are entirely disused. The straw brechem is now supplanted by the leather collar, the rasheen sheets by the iron traces; and more is  
now



now expended on a single cart, than would then have purchased both cart and horse. The size of farms is increasing, and of consequence their number diminishes. We account one of from L. 30 to L. 50 rent, a middle sized farm. There are a few above that rent, but many more below it.—This parish, unless in very bad years, produces much more grain than is necessary for the subsistence of its inhabitants. Besides the farm-victual, which amounts to a very considerable part of the rent, there are large quantities, both of meal and barley, annually sold by the farmers for the supply of the neighbouring town of Banff, and for exportation. In 1782 the crop was so defective, that, according to the computation of inspectors, there was not grain within the parish sufficient to supply it beyond the month of April. By the attention and generosity of the heritors, and the bounty of Government, with L. 40 from the funds of the parish, the poorer sort were supplied. The most curious fact relating to that alarming period was, that the oats on the earlier grounds, which ripened, were plump, and were found on trial to yield abundance of excellent meal, did not vegetate when sown next year; whereas the oats on late grounds, which were green, and neither filled nor ripened, sprang up with vigour. As this was not found out till too late, it proved of the greatest detriment to the succeeding crop. The seed, which had been bought up at an enormous expence, misgave; what might have greatly contributed to the support of families, was unprofitably cast into the ground; and what might have been profitably sown, was sent to the mill, where it made but a scanty return.

*Population.*—The numbers returned to Dr Webster were 1161. As there are no parish registers previous to the



the year 1720, the ancient state of its population cannot be ascertained. From the records since that period, it should seem that population is upon the decline.

*Births, Marriages and Burials, for three different periods, viz.*

|                                   |   |                 |                        |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| 7 years succeeding 1st Jan. 1720. | { | Births, 214.    | Aver. 30 $\frac{4}{7}$ |
|                                   |   | Mar. 32.        | — 4 $\frac{4}{7}$      |
|                                   |   | Bur.(noregist.) |                        |
| 1st Jan. 1750.                    | { | Births, 137.    | — 19 $\frac{4}{7}$     |
|                                   |   | Mar. 44.        | — 6 $\frac{2}{7}$      |
|                                   |   | Bur. 52.        | — 7 $\frac{3}{7}$      |
| 1st Jan. 1780.                    | { | Births, 113.    | — 16 $\frac{1}{7}$     |
|                                   |   | Mar. 43.        | — 6 $\frac{1}{7}$      |
|                                   |   | Bur. 62.        | — 8 $\frac{6}{7}$      |

The marriages are restricted to those where the husband was a residenter; from the idea, that girls married out of the parish do not contribute to its population: But lest this should be deemed erroneous, it may be proper to notify, that the average of all, who were married during the first period, was 7 $\frac{1}{7}$ ; during the second, 9 $\frac{3}{7}$ ; and during the third, 9 $\frac{4}{7}$ . In the year 1782, the number of parishioners, on an exact survey, was found to amount to 1070; which is very nearly the present state of it. Some years before it was rather greater. One principal cause of depopulation in this parish is, the eagerness of some improvers to take all their land under their own management; by which means mechanics, and even day-labourers are deprived of their crofts; and, as there are no villages within the parish, betake themselves to other places, where they can find accommodation. Why the same number of marriages doth not produce an equal number of births as in former times, is left to more intelligent heads to explain? There have been no extraordinary instances



stances of longevity of late. Only one man has reached 100, and a few are on the verge of 90 years. The inhabitants are mostly employed in agriculture. There are several weavers and wrights, a few smiths and tailors, and often not one shoemaker. They are regular attenders of the Established Church; nor do the Dissenters, of whatever denomination, exceed 8 or 10.

*Heritors, Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The property of the parish belongs at present to 5 heritors, of whom only 1 resides. The manse was built in 1764. The church is very old, and in bad repair. The stipend is 58 bolls 2 firlots 2 pecks oat-meal; 5 bolls 2 firlots bear; L. 600 Scots, with 50 merks for communion-elements. The glebe consists of between 6 and 7 acres, of which the rough meadow ground has been drained and cultivated by the present incumbent, and the whole inclosed.—The yearly collections amount to about L. 15 or L. 16, which, with the interest of L. 120, and L. 1, 10s. the rent of some seats in the area of the church, constitute the whole funds for the maintenance of the poor.

*Wages and Prices.*—The wages of servants and mechanics, and the price of provisions have risen rapidly within these few years. The yearly wages of a man servant may be rated at L. 5, or L. 5, 10s.; and of a woman at L. 2. A labourer earns 8d. a-day. The price of beef, mutton, poultry, &c. is regulated entirely by the weekly market in Banff, of which an account will be given in the report from that parish.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The principal roads were made by the statute-work, and are kept in repair by the same means.



means. It is commonly exacted in kind ; but when commutations in money are more convenient for the people, they are accepted. Of late years, bridges have been built over the most dangerous passes, to the great accommodation and safety of travellers ; and it is hoped, that, as soon as the funds can afford, more will be erected. Turnpikes are unknown in this corner of the country, and would undoubtedly be unacceptable at first ; though the experience of their advantages might in time reconcile us. It must indeed be allowed, that, as the resort on our roads is but little, they are not so necessary as on those that are more frequented.

*Antiquities.*—There are few or no antiquities in this parish worthy of a place in historical records. At the farm of Bog of Mountblairie are the remains of an old castle, situated in a swamp now overgrown with alder, and said to have been built by the Earl of Buchan ; and on an eminence above it, the ruins of a chapel, adjoining to which is a well, famed of old for its sovereign charms, but now fallen into disrepute. Within these few years there was an iron ladder ; and many still alive remember to have seen the impending boughs adorned with rags of linen and woollen garments, and the cistern enriched with farthings and boddles, the offerings and testimonies of grateful votaries, who came from afar to this fountain of health. At the foot of the hill of Alvah, towards the north, is another spring, which passes by the name of Com's or Colm's well, in honour, very probably, of the renowned Saint of Icolmkil.



## NUMBER LIII.

## PARISH OF STRATHMIGLO,

## (COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE LYON.*

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*Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

STRATHMIGLO is so called, as being a strath or valley on both sides of the water of Miglo, which runs through it from W. to E. and then takes the name of Eden. It is in the presbytery of Cupar, and Synod of Fife. It is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  English miles long, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  broad, bounded by the Lomond Hill on the S. and on the N. by a branch of the Ochil Hills; and by the parishes of Portmoak, Orwell, Arngosk, Abernethy, Auchtermuchty, Kettle and Falkland. It is partly flat, and partly hilly. The soil on the N. side of the water is generally moist, but tolerably fertile; on the S. side dry and shallow; but in the eastern part of the parish, on both sides of the water, it is deep and fertile. The air, through a great part of the year is rather moist, but not unhealthy. The most prevalent distempers are fevers, attributed to the moistness; but they are not frequent, and seldom mortal. There are no remarkable mountains. The hills are covered



vered with grafs. A bed of freestone runs along the S. fide of the water of Miglo for about 3 miles, and is used for building houses and inclofing ground. There is no other found, except a white ftone on the N. fide of the Lomond Hill, which admits of a fine polish, and is used by the richer fort of people for hearthftones, the corners of their houfes, and lintels for doors and windows. A kind of moorstone is fometimes used for inclofing ground with what they call a Galloway dike, or open ftone-fence.

*Population.* — By Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 1695\*. In the year 1754, when I was ordained minifter of the parifh, there were about 1100 perfons in it, and this year (1790) there are about 980, of whom about 470 are males, and 510 are females. From the 1ft of October 1783, when the register began to be better, though not exactly kept, to the 1ft of October 1790, the number of births has been about 225, of burials about 136, and of marriages about 95. There is but one inftance of a very long life well authenticated, that of one James Beveridge, who lived to 110, and was 7 times married. There are 26 farmers, whose families may confift of 182 perfons in all: About 50 manufacturers, 46 handicraftsmen, 24 apprentices, 29 household and 50 labouring fervants, 4 merchants, and 110 inhabitants in the town of Strathmiglo. There are about 266 born in other diftricts or parifhes in Scotland. There are 19 heritors; 12 of whom, among which are 2 families of gentry, refide. There is one writer. About 750 are of the Eftablifhed Church, about 228 Seceders, and 2 Epifcopalians. The population of the parifh is materially different from what it was 25 years ago, and the decrease is attributed chiefly to the throwing 2 or 3 fmall farms into one, and the abolifhing of cotteries; for, though fome of the cottagers

\* Probably a miftake of the pen for 1995.



take houses in the town of Strathmiglo, others go and reside in towns, where the encouragement to manufactures is greater. Each marriage may produce, at an average, 5 children; none have died from want; no murders or suicides have been committed; few have emigrated, and none have been banished; if any have left the parish, it was not for want of employment. There are about 245 inhabited houses. At an average, 4 persons may be to each inhabited house. A few are uninhabited.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The number of cattle may be about 500, of horses 190, and of sheep 300. Within these few years, great improvements have been made in agriculture. There are about 54 ploughs, all of the common kind; 74 carts, and 2 carriages. The parish supplies itself with provisions for common use; but at the same time, it both imports and exports.—26 years ago there were only 2 inclosures in the parish, and now there are about 63, and many of them large. Great part of the parish is now inclosed. The people generally sow in April and May, and reap in August and September. There is only one wood about 3 quarters of a Scots mile in circumference: One piece of marshy ground, about a quarter of a mile long, and very narrow: One lake, about a quarter of a mile in circumference; and no river except Miglo, which is very small. The parish has no peculiar advantages or disadvantages that I know; except the advantage of being in the immediate neighbourhood of hills for the rearing of sheep. The land-rent may be about L. 2926 Sterling. The rent of houses cannot be exactly ascertained, as they are of such different dimensions; but a house of 2 storeys may rent at L. 3, 4 s. Sterling, and of 1 storey, if of equal length and breadth, at L. 1, 16 s.

*Stipend,*



*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The living, including the glebe, is, at the ordinary conversion of victual, L. 105, 13 s. Sterling. Lord Stormont is patron. The church was built about 5 years ago, and the manse 2 years sooner.—There are 8 poor families, who receive monthly pensions, besides some others, who have occasional relief. The ordinary annual amount of the weekly contributions is about L. 8 : 12 : 4 Sterling, and the produce of alms, and other funds destined for that purpose, is about L. 23 : 3 : 4.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—Butcher meat 30 years ago was about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. now  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d.; and so on as to other articles; a boll of wheat 15 s. now L. 1, 1 s.; of barley 9 s. now 14 s.; and of oats 8 s. now 12 s.—A day's wage for a labourer in husbandry and other work, is generally 1 s. without victuals, and 8 d. with them; and so on as to other professions.—The fuel commonly made use of is coal. The price on the coal-hill is 7 d. for the load, which is reckoned 16 stone. They are procured from Balgonie, Balbirnie, Lochgellie, and Kettle—I cannot exactly say what the expence of a common labourer, when married, at an average may be; but if he has 3 or 4 young children, it may be about L. 16, 12 s.; and if he and his wife are in health and vigour, his wages, with any little shift his wife can make, and it can be but little while the children are very young, is sufficient to bring up his family. The usual wages of a farmer's principal male servant, are L. 8 Sterling; of an under male servant, L. 4; of a female servant, L. 2, 5 s.; and of a domestic female servant, L. 2, 10 s.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are only 2 villages. The people are generally of the middle size. The tallest man I ever heard of, and whom I knew, was about 6 feet 5. They are in general disposed to industry and œconomy.

No



No manufactures are carried on, except by individuals. They are not fond of a seafaring or military life. Property, particularly in land, does not often change. It sells, at an average, at about 26 years purchase. The people are as much disposed to humane and generous actions, as others in their circumstances generally are. On the whole, they enjoy the comforts and advantages of society, and seem contented.—The county roads and bridges are in tolerable good order, and are kept in repair by assessments in money and statute-labour, exacted in kind. There are no turnpikes. The general opinion is, that if the money raised by them is properly applied, it is the only effectual way to make good roads and bridges, and keep them in proper repair.—The farms in general may be at an average of about 150 acres, and the average rent about 10 s. an acre. The number of farms is diminishing rather than increasing.—The manners of the inhabitants are much the same they were 36 years ago, civil and obliging; but their dress and style of living are very different. At that time, though the rents the farmers paid were very low, they and their families were in general coarsely clad, and lived in a mean style; but now that the rents are greatly raised, in some places of the parish doubled, and in one farm almost tripled, the farmers are in appearance richer, and their families dress and live much better.

NUM.



## NUMBER LIV.

## PARISH OF ROW,

## (COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN ALLAN.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil, Fish, &c.*

THE name *Row* is a Gaelic word, and signifies 'a point.' Very near the place where the church is situated, there is a pretty long point running out into the sea.—The parish is situated in the presbytery of Dumbarton, and Synod of Glasgow and Air. It is between 13 and 14 miles in length, and about 3 in breadth; bounded on the E. by the parish of Cardross; on the N. E. by Luss; on the N. W. by Lochlong; on the W. and S. by the Gareloch, which separates it from Roseneath, and the frith of Clyde, which separates it from Greenock. The E. end of the parish is pretty flat, the greatest part of it hilly, and towards the N. E. mountainous. The soil in general is light, and where it is properly cultivated, pretty fertile. The air is sharp and healthy. Fevers are the prevalent distempers. The sea-coast extends about 12 miles, for most part flat and sandy, but in some places high and rocky.—Salmon, haddocks, small cod, whittings, small flounders, and sometimes mackerel and herring, are caught in the lochs before



before mentioned, the quantity not great. Salmon is sold at 6 d. the pound, tron weight, at an average; mackerel,  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. a piece; haddocks, &c.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  a-pound. The best season for salmon is from the beginning of April to the end of July; mackerel, in June and July; haddocks, from December to March; cod and whittings, in the summer months. Salmon, herring, and mackerel are taken with nets; the other kinds of fish with long or hand lines. The town of Greenock is the principal market. A species of whales, called Bottle-Noses, have sometimes run a-ground during the tide of ebb, been taken, and oil extracted from them. Porpoises and seals are likewise to be seen occasionally. Seaware is used all along the coast for manuring land, and kelp is sometimes made, but in very small quantities. Twenty or thirty years ago, all the hills were covered with heath; but since the introduction and increase of sheep, the heath has gradually lessened, and the hills begin to have a green appearance.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 853. About 50 or 60 years ago, it appears the amount of the population was about 1300. The present amount is about 1000. The number of males 486, of females 514. It appears from the register, that there are more males than females born; but many of the young men leave the parish in quest of employment, some as sailors, others as tradesmen or servants. There is one village in the parish, lately built, which contains about 100 souls. The annual average of births, from May 1. 1760 to May 1. 1770, is 40; from May 1. 1770 to May 1. 1780, 34; and from May 1. 1780 to May 1. 1790, 33. There was no distinct register of burials prior to 1783, nor can the number of deaths in it be exactly ascertained now that it is kept; because some of the people have their



their burying places in the neighbouring parishes, and some from other parishes are brought here. The annual average, however, may be about 14. The annual average of marriages from May 1760 to May 1770 is 7; from May 1770 to May 1780, 9; and from May 1780 to May 1790, 10. There are in the parish 65 farmers, their families are about 325 in number. There is only 1 family of Seceders. The population, as hath been already observed, has decreased these last 10 or 20 years, owing to many of the farms being now possessed by 1 tenant, which were formerly occupied by 3, 4, and sometimes more, each of whom accommodated a cottager; besides, some of the farms have of late years been entirely kept under grass, and no tenant upon the grounds. Each marriage, at an average, produces about 6 children.

*Agriculture, &c.*—There are from 4500 to 5000 sheep; the average price of white wool is 7s. the stone, and the wool laid with tar 5s. The parish does more than supply itself with provisions, Greenock is the market for the overplus of grain and potatoes, Glasgow, Paisley, Port-Glasgow, Greenock and Dumbarton, for beef, mutton, &c. Oats and peas are sown from the 20th March to the first week in May; potatoes from the middle of April to the 20th of May; bear from the 10th of May to the 8th or 10th of June. The crops are reaped in general from the beginning of September to the 20th of October.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, is about 100 guineas. The Duke of Argyle is patron. The church was rebuilt in the year 1763. The manse in 1737. There are 8 heritors; 1 small proprietor resides constantly, and another occasionally.—There are 2 schools; the salary of the parochial schoolmaster



schoolmaster amounts to L. 80 Scots; during the winter he generally has from 30 to 40 scholars, in summer about half that number; his emoluments, including session-clerk dues, scarce amount to L. 18 Sterling a-year.—About 30 years ago, one of the then heritors of the parish, Mr Glen of Portincaple, mortified a piece of land for the support of another schoolmaster; the number of scholars taught by him is considerably greater, and his emoluments at least equal to the parochial one.—There are at present 8 poor who receive regular supply, and about the same number occasionally. The funds are the weekly collections at the church-door, amounting to from L. 10 to L. 12 a-year, together with the interest of about L. 220 of stock, L. 50 of which was lately bequeathed by Robert Carmichael, Esq; of Broomley, a late proprietor in the parish of Bonhill.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—The present price of beef, veal, and mutton, is 6 d. the pound, tron weight; in harvest, and beginning of winter considerably cheaper; butter, from 9 d. to 10 d. the pound; cheese, from 4 s. to 6 s. the stone; a hen, from 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d. These articles of provisions have doubled in price from what they were 40 years ago. Bear fold, winter and spring 1791, at from 16 s. to 18 s. the boll; oats at 16 s. and oat-meal at from 1 s. to 1 s. 1 d. the peck.—The wages for labourers in husbandry are from 10 d. to 1 s. a day. The usual wages of men servants employed in husbandry, are from L. 8 to L. 9 a year; females, from L. 3 to L. 4.—The fuel commonly made use of by the tenants, is peat or turf, which is cut in the moors of the respective farms. Coals are likewise brought from the neighbourhood of Glasgow, the price of which is greatly increased of late years.



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are several remains of Popish chapels. Within these last 20 or 30 years, there have been found in different places, 4 stones set upon edge, with a large flag covering them, the opening about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet by  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , in which human bones were deposited.—The people are fond of a sea-faring life; during last war, from 25 to 30 able bodied seamen, from this parish, were employed in the navy. But they are not fond of a military one.—The people in general are not expensive, a few individuals are much addicted to dram drinking; and the young people, especially the females, fond of dress, and more expensive in that way than their circumstances can well afford.—There are about 11 ale or rather whisky houses; one properly called an inn, being one of the stages on the line of road, lately made by the Duke of Argyle, between Inveraray and Dumbarton.—English is generally spoken, but many understand and frequently converse in Gaelic.



## NUMBER LV.

## PARISH OF COLDSTREAM,

(COUNTY OF BERWICK).

By JAMES BELL, D. D.

*Name, Situation, Soil, Air, &c.*

THE ancient name of the parish was Lennel, and the ruins of Lennel church, distant from Coldstream about a mile and a half nearly, still remain. Eastward from this church there was formerly a little town or village called Lennel, which was so entirely destroyed in the Border wars, that the site of it is not known to me. Coldstream was the seat of a priory or abbacy which belonged to the Cistercian order, and was situated near the Tweed, where a small water, called Leet, falls into it. Of this ancient structure a vault only remains. It is probable that a village was formed near it, which, from the pleasantness of the situation, and the protection afforded by the abbacy to the inhabitants, increased to the size of a small town. Before General Monk marched into England to restore the Royal Family, he made Coldstream his head quarters, and raised that body of men, which, being in succession recruited, has been called ever since the Coldstream Regiment of Guards.—

Coldstream



Coldstream is situated in the county of Berwick, presbytery of Chirnside, and Synod of Merse and Tiviotdale. Placing the foot of a compass at Lennel church, taking 4 miles for a radius, and the river Tweed as a diameter, a semicircle described on the north of that river will give a general idea of the extent and form of the parish. The length from E. to W. is from 7 to 8 miles; the breadth 4 miles at an average. Coldstream is bounded by Ladykirk on the E. by Simprin (now united to Swinton) on the N. by Eccles on the W. The river Tweed is the southern boundary. The general appearance of the country is flat. The rising grounds in the parish do not deserve the name of hills.—The soil for the most part is rich and fertile; near the Tweed light; inclined to clay backwards. A broad slip of barren land runs through the parish from E. to W. called the Moorland.—The air is in general dry and healthy. Coldstream is situated at a considerable, and nearly equal distance from the Chiviot and Lammermoor hills. When the weather is showery, especially if the wind be westerly, the clouds (from the west) take the direction of one or other of these hills, pour down their contents upon them, and leave this parish untouched. There is much more rain at Dunse and Wooller than here. According as the summer is wet or dry, Coldstream is benefited or hurt by the locality of its situation. Agues prevail in some seasons, but not regularly. Headaches, toothaches, and nervous complaints in general, are more frequent here than in other places with which I have been acquainted. Perhaps the easterly fogs and rains, together with the frequent blowing of the wind from that quarter, may be the causes of these complaints. In the village, the children of the poorer inhabitants are liable to the scrophula.

*Tweed.*



*Tweed.*—Tweed produces bull-trouts, whittings, gilfes, falmon, and all other kinds of fish common to the rivers in the south of Scotland. Bull-trouts make their appearance in Tweed during the spring months, and soon after go away. When they come in numbers, they are thought to prognosticate a plenteous season for gilfes and falmon.—The intercourse carried on between Berwick and London, by means of the Berwick smacks, and the recent discovery of carrying fresh fish to a distant market, preserved in ice, render the price of gilfes and falmon as dear at Coldstream as in the metropolis. Tweed is open to fishing from the 10th of January to the 10th of October. In the rivers to the north, which abound in such fish, the *close* season, as it is called, which comprehends the rest of the months, varies, and is earlier, I believe, for the most part in proportion to the latitude of these rivers northwards in Scotland, to the Tay, Don, and Dee. The fisheries in the Tweed are of small value here, but not so near Berwick. The gentlemen concerned in them have of late been at great pains to protect and extend them. They reckon nothing more beneficial than the taking care that the protection afforded to the fish, be observed, during the close season, with the utmost strictness. Meetings have been held by the gentlemen of Merse and Tiviotdale, lately, to deliberate concerning the practicability and expediency of rendering Tweed navigable, or of cutting a canal through those two counties to the sea.

*Minerals, &c.*—Besides good freestone, pebbles, seemingly of a good quality, are found among the stones and sand on the banks of Tweed, as well as in the fields nigh that river. Whether there is coal, is not yet certain. Some trials have been made without success. A company near  
Newcastle,



Newcastle, employed in that business, engaged lately to make the experiment on a great scale, and for that end entered into terms with Lord Binning. The writs were extended, an agent from his Lordship came to Coldstream to finish and settle the affair; but these colliers of the south broke their faith with him, and disappointed our hopes.—Shell-marl was found in one marsh, and there is plenty of rock-marl in many parts.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's return, about 40 years ago, the numbers were 1493. From the roll of examinable persons in 1785 and 1786, the numbers were 2017. In the country part of the parish, were 292 males, 387 females, 176 children. In the town and a few houses adjacent to it, the numbers were 1162. Number of families in the town, 305; in the country, 189. I must remark, however, that the examination-roll is by no means a standard by which the number of the inhabitants of a parish is to be estimated. This roll is usually made up by the officer of the session, called the kirk-officer, who is seldom a person in whom any trust in a matter of this investigation can be reposed. The age at which children are to be inrolled is not ascertained. Parents, according as they have been anxious to forward, or have been negligent in their education, are desirous to have the names of their children early inserted in or withheld from this parochial record. Still, however, it gives a general prospectus of the population of a parish. I must add, that the session-officer in this parish is one of the few to be depended upon for accuracy.

Annual



|                                             |      |
|---------------------------------------------|------|
| Annual births, from 1740 to 1749 inclusive, | 38.6 |
| from 1750 to 1759,                          | 47.4 |
| from 1760 to 1769,                          | 53.1 |
| from 1770 to 1779,                          | 51.2 |
| from 1780 to 1789,                          | 43.8 |

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Average, 46.82

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Annual deaths, from 1740 to 1749, | 18.7 |
| from 1750 to 1759,                | 19.3 |
| from 1760 to 1769,                | 16.1 |
| from 1770 to 1779,                | 22.1 |
| from 1780 to 1789,                | 28.5 |

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Average, 20.94

Previous to the year 1786, the number of burials could only be ascertained from the register of mortcloth money interspersed among the records of the kirk-session. The poor who were buried at the public expence were not taken notice of except occasionally, so that there must be some small degree of inaccuracy in the above average account of burials. In the town of Coldstream there are about 34 day-labourers, 20 carters, several of whom farm 3 or 4 acres of land, 17 weavers, 11 shoemakers, 15 wrights, 9 masons, 6 bakers, 4 butchers, 4 smiths, 5 gardeners, 3 saddlers, 5 tailors, 11 merchants, 13 innkeepers and ale-sellers, 1 physician and 2 surgeons. There is a Seceder Meeting-house in Coldstream.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The parish produces the ordinary vegetables, plants and trees, to be found on the south eastern border of Scotland. At Kersfield, which belongs to Mr Morison of Morison, the trees are of a large size. At Hirsel, the seat of the Earl of Home, a few trees near the house excepted,



cepted, the plantations along the small water Leet are not as yet of age. There are no natural woods, forests, waste or common grounds. Near Tweed on this side, and still more remarkably on the opposite bank, as far as the Chiviot, and the ranges of hills contiguous to it, the want of trees attests the border desolations. Plants in far greater variety are to be found in the lower parts of Clydesdale and Renfrewshire than in this parish and its neighbourhood. This part of the Merse and downwards along Tweed, is not a rich field for a botanical journey. Husbandry is well understood in the Merse. By the Merse I do not mean the shire of Berwick. That shire consists of three parts: 1. Lauderdale; 2. that range of hills which, under different names, extends westward from the head of Leader water, to the sea below the town of Berwick; and, 3. that track of country which is situated between those hills and Tweed. That charming and fertile track is properly the Merse, Lauderdale excepted. The parish supplies itself in provisions, and sends cattle and corn to other markets. We have an early harvest, and the sowing of the crops is adjusted to this. The gross rent of the parish may be about L. 6000 Sterling a-year or more. The rent of fishings is L. 93.

*Wages and Prices.*—A mason's wages in summer are 1s. 6d.; a day-labourer's 1s.; a man reaper's 1s.; a woman reaper's 8d.; a mower's 1s. 4d.; men servants wages are from L. 7 to L. 10, yearly; women servants are L. 3. The hinds roll, as it is called, or wages of a hind the year, at an average, are 8 bolls oats,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  peas and barley, coals led, a cow's grafs, a pig and poultry allowed to be fed at the direction of the master. Hinds form the principal class of servants belonging to the great farmers in this neighbourhood. Good beef, mutton, veal and lamb, sell at 4d. the lb; pork



pork at 3 d. ; butter at 6 d ; cheese at 5 d. ; hens from 8 d to 10 d. ; ducks from 6 d. to 8 d. ; geese 2 s. ; turkeys, 2 s. 6 d. ; salmon and gilfes at the Billingsgate price.

*Manufactures.*—There is no town in the south of Scotland so well situated for manufactures, in my humble opinion, as Coldstream. The country in its neighbourhood, on both banks of the Tweed is rich in corn and cattle. The price of coals is moderate. We are distant from Berwick about 15 miles. The great road between London and Berwick, the road between Berwick and Kelso, and between Dunfermline and Northumberland, all pass through the town of Coldstream. Goods manufactured here might be thus carried in various directions into England and Scotland, by ways of communication already opened up. Should the projected plan of a canal be executed and carried near this place, the price of coals would be reduced, and all the advantages would be reaped, which arise from an inland navigation. From the excellent nature of the soil, flax might be raised to serve the purpose of a linen manufacture. The good quality of our barley would favour a distillery or a brewery ; neither of which we at present have. Our ale, beer, and porter, come from Ednam. But the woollen manufacture is that for which Coldstream is particularly well situated. The breed of sheep is excellent, and is still improving. I am not sure if the wool, by which the trade and manufactures of Leeds have risen to such vast importance, be in general equal to what is produced in the Merse, Tiviotdale and Northumberland. Yetham, Galashiels, Hawick, places far distant from coals, and not enjoying our advantages of communication, are pushing the woollen manufacture with success. Were a proper plan set on foot here for carrying on that



that manufacture, it is hard to say to what extent it might in time arrive.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church was built in 1716; the manse in 1782. The stipend is L. 80 in money, 2 chalders in meal, and 1 chaldar of barley. The glebe is 12 acres of very good land. The patron is Lord Binning. There are 16 heritors, 4 of whom reside.—The salary of the schoolmaster is L. 16 Sterling. Previous to the year 1735, the poor seem to have been entirely supported by the Sunday collections and the contributions of charitable persons. It appears, that in that year, the session admitted on their roll as constant pensioners, 3 persons at 4 d. and 3 at 2 d. a-week. At that time the affairs of the poor were entirely in the hands of the kirk-session, and continued so till about 1740. It appears, that in 1737, the first demand was made upon the heritors to give a regular assistance to support the poor. It was not, however, in general, punctually obeyed on their part. In 1741 the session requested that the Justices of the Peace would call for the poor's list, and appoint overseers, &c. conform to an act of session 1. of parl 1. of Charles II. This remonstrance seems to have had the desired effect; for in 1742, it appears, that half the collection was ordered to be given to the overseers for the poor. The weekly pay of the poor in 1743 was about 10 s. Sterling. From the year 1765, the heritors kept a regular minute-book and a cash-book; their accounts after this being altogether unconnected with the kirk-session records. In May 1765, the number on the poor's roll was 22, in aid of whom 19 s. 1 d. Sterling was the weekly assessment. The highest allowance was one shilling. The quarterly assessment was L. 13 Sterling. In 1770 the quarterly assessment was L. 18, and in 1774, it amounted to L. 25, besides L. 4 levied



from the town of Coldstream. The weekly payment being L. 2 : 6 : 11. The number on the poor's roll 34. In the year of scarcity, 1783, meal was sold at reduced prices to the poor, at the expence of the heritors and tenants, to the amount of L. 112 Sterling. For the inrolled poor the quarterly assessment was L. 40, 14 s. the weekly pay L. 3, 4 s. The number on the list 46. No demand has been made on the session since 1773. Half of a quarterly assessment was paid by the session in 1780 or 1781. The collection money goes to relieve tradesmen laid off work by sickness, persons overlooked or not sufficiently provided in the poor's list, poor whose claims upon the parish being dubious, are not entered on the list of the heritors, genteeler families decayed not on the roll, sick and distressed persons returning to Scotland, a great number of which pass this way, and the like. Owing to the high assessment of the parish, the collection is small. From 1785 to 1790, the yearly amount of poor's rates has exceeded L. 220, the weekly pay above L. 4. Two evils have arisen from the rapid increase of the poor's rates. The one is, that trusting to these rates, the common people do not endeavour to provide any thing for a time of sickness or scarcity, or for the approach of old age. The other is, that these rates have, in a great measure, deprived them of the natural feelings of giving aid to their relations in distress. The nearest ties of consanguinity are disregarded, and the holiest affections of humanity are thus extinguished. No person almost is ashamed of having his father, mother, brother, or any other relation, on the pauper's list.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The only part of the parish subject to inundations is the Lees haugh, which is situated between the house of Mr Marjoribanks of Lees and Cornhill, and which is bounded by Tweed on the S. and E. and



and by Leet on the N. The greatest land-flood remembered by the oldest people then alive, happened in May 1783.—A very remarkable thunder-storm happened in this parish on the 19th day of July 1785; a very accurate and scientific account of which, by Captain Brydone, is to be found in the Philosophical Transactions of London.—There are two obelisks in the parish, which were both erected by Alexander the late Earl of Home. The one small, built on the centre pier of a Chinese bridge, consisting of two arches, over the water Leet. The other larger, which exhibits in miniature the elegant and beautiful proportions of the Obeliscus Matthei at Rome. This is erected at the foot of a wooded bank nigh the Leet, and was intended by Lord Home as a monument, in memory of his eldest son Lord Dunglass, who died in America of the wounds he received in the battle of Cambden.—There are two small tumuli in the Kersfield estate on the top of a steep bank of the Tweed. The tradition is, that the bodies of those who fell in one of the border battles are buried in them.—The size and stature of the people on this side of Tweed being the same with those on the other bank, the following notanda of the Northumberland militia, which were communicated to me by Mr John Hall, surgeon, who officiated in that corps in the last war, will illustrate the subject. The height of the men was from 5 feet  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches to 5 feet  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches; some of the grenadier company were 6 feet, 6 feet 1 inch, and 6 feet 2 inches; the lowest size 5 feet 7 inches. They were in general very strong made, particularly the class first mentioned. It was remarked by judges, that this battalion, though consisting of fewer men than other battalions from the southern counties, yet occupied as much space in the line of brigade. The person who furnished the cloathing,  
found



found that a greater quantity of cloth was necessary for them, than for those of the southern counties, numbers being equal.—The people are much disposed to industry in the line of husbandry. We have no manufactures. Those who are fond of a military life, have a predilection to the Coldstream Regiment of Guards.—The number of ale-houses have the worst effect upon the people, encouraging almost every species of vice.—The language is distinguishable from that spoken on the other side of Tweed, by the soft sound of the letter R. From that river southward, as far I believe as Yorkshire, the people universally annex a guttural sound to the letter R, which in some places goes by the name of the Berwick *burrb*.—The names of one or two places in the parish are derived from the Latin, as *Darn-chester* and *Lares-croft*, the grounds of which lie contiguous. *Bil-chester* and *Row-chester*, in the neighbouring parish of Eccles, are of the same derivation. The word “Law” annexed to the name of so many places in the parish, attests, that it had belonged to the kingdom of Northumberland during the Heptarchy; as *Hirsel-law*, *Castle-law*, *Spy-law*, *Carter-law*, &c.

NUM.



NUMBER LVI.

PARISH OF LOGIE BUCHAN.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM PATERSON.

*Name, Situation, Surface and Soil.*

**L**OGIE is derived from the Gaelic; and is said to signify "a low lying place." The parish is called *Logie Buchan*, probably to distinguish it from other parishes, called Logie in this county, such as Logie Mar and Logie Durno. It is situated in the presbytery of Ellon, and Synod of Aberdeen. The river Ythan intersects it pretty nearly in the middle. The parish extends from the church upon the S. side of the river to the S. W. about 4 English miles, but is not above a mile broad. On the N. side of the river, it extends about 3 miles, and in general is from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 miles in breadth. That part of the parish which lies on the N. side of the river, is in the district of Buchan; that on the S. side, is in the district of Formartine. On the N. of the river, it is bounded by the parish of Slains on the E.; by Cruden on the N.; and by Ellon on the W. On the S. of the river, it is bounded by Foveran on the S.; Udny on the W.; and Ellon on the N. W.

The



The surface is pretty flat, with some rising grounds in it, but none that can properly be called a hill, or which are not arable and improvable. The soil in general is fertile, but more barren on the banks of the river, than farther removed from it; and the river Ythan, I believe, is pretty singular in this, that its banks, during the whole course of it, are barren, rocky, and covered with heath, (a few small haughs excepted), even in a fertile country where heath is very scarce. On the N. side of the river, the soil is in general a rich loam on a clay bottom, or a strong red clay, which, in seasons that are neither too wet nor too dry, yields a rich crop, but it often fails. On the S. side of the river, the soil for more than a mile to the S. and W. is light and black, on a gravelly or rocky bottom; but as you advance to the westward, it becomes a rich loam, and in some places a strong unmanageable red clay.

*River.*—Ythan is the only river in this parish; it produces salmon, the common burn trout, the salmon trout, and the finnack. The first is in season in spring, and the two latter in August; it produces also eels and flounders, which are highly esteemed. Near the mouth of the river, there is a very fine bed of muscles and cockles, which supplies the neighbouring country, the town of Aberdeen, and also the fishers of the whole Buchan coast with bait. The muscles, about 12 years ago, were sold at 4 d. the peck on the spot; but the present tacksmen raised them to 6 d. and this spring to 7 d. which bears very hard upon the fishers, who must pay at that rate, or L. 1 yearly for each man or boy who goes out to sea; and they are under the necessity of complying with his demands, however unreasonable, as no substitute has ever yet been discovered,  
which



which can answer the purpose of bait. The muscles are in season from September to April; but as the muscle bed lies in the parish of Foveran, I shall add no more upon the subject, as it will perhaps be only anticipating what may be said more properly in the account of that parish. The salmon fell in the beginning of the season at 6 d. the lb. and as the season advances, they fall to 4 d. 3 d. and even to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. if they are plentiful.—The shells, which contain pearl, are pretty often found in this river. I have not indeed heard of any pearls having been found in them for these 16 or 17 years; but I am informed from good authority, that a few years before that, several were got by people keeping cattle upon the water side, and that some of these were of considerable value. A circumstance has come to my knowledge within these few days, which shews, that the pearl fishery of this river was considered as an object of greater value some time ago, than it has been for these several years past; namely, that one of the predecessors of Mr Buchan of Auchmacoy had obtained a patent for it; and in the list of unprinted acts of 1st Parliament of Charles I. *anno* 1633, there is an act, “repealing the patent for the pearl fishery, granted to Robert Buchan.” Ythan is not a large river, but the tide flows for more than 4 miles up, and is navigable to small craft for more than 3, which is a great accommodation to the neighbouring country. About half a mile below this church, the tide flows out into a broad basin, and covers a piece of land to the extent of 90 acres; called the Sleek of Tartie; part of the surface is green, and produces a fine short grass, which is very fattening both for black cattle and horses. The soil is mixed with shells, and the farmers use it as a manure with great advantage; they lay it on, and spread it on the ground in autumn  
and



and winter, and plough it down in the spring, and by this manure alone, I have seen good crops of bear raised on poor outfield ground. Perhaps, by raising a proper dike along the natural course of the river, the tide might be prevented from overflowing this space, and by this means a valuable piece of ground might be gained to the proprietor; the channel of the river might be deepened, and rendered navigable to larger vessels.

*Produce and State of Improvements.*—Oats and bear are almost the only productions. A few years ago, one of the proprietors built a lint-mill, since which time, the inhabitants have begun to cultivate flax; but as they are not sufficiently acquainted with the proper mode of managing this useful crop, it is not yet cultivated to that extent to which it is to be hoped they will soon arrive. Improvements in agriculture may be said to be here only in their infancy. From the easy access which the farmers have to lime, by means of the Ythan being navigable, it has been used as a manure for more than 20 years past; but for want of a proper check in the mode of cropping, after using this manure, they at first rather exhausted than improved their fields by it. They are, however, beginning to see the impropriety of this practice; but they still, for most part, take 3 crops of grain after liming, then a green crop, either turnip or peas, and then bear with grass feeds. This mode of cropping, although better than what was formerly adopted in this corner of the country, would perhaps be reprobated by good farmers; but it is to be hoped, that in a few years, our farmers will be brought to crop their fields, in a manner less hurtful to the soil, and more beneficial to their landlords and themselves. The shortness of the leases that are commonly



monly granted in this part of the country, must be mentioned as one great bar to the improvement of it. There are a few instances of pretty long leases granted lately; and as most of the proprietors profess their readiness to give longer leases when good tenants offer, I hope this great obstacle to improvements in agriculture will be removed. There are few sheep; and although of late years the high prices of black cattle have induced the farmers to breed more of them than they did formerly, yet grain may be said to be the staple commodity; of which we always raise a great deal more than is consumed in the parish. A considerable quantity is every year sent to the Aberdeen market, and exported from the Ythan, when there is any demand from abroad, or from distant parts of the kingdom. There are 62 ploughs; that most generally in use is the old Scots plough; several people are getting ploughs of a more improved construction. Personal services by the tenants to the landlords are entirely abolished here. Subtenants continue to pay some services to the principal tacksmen; but it is generally 6 days only in the year, for assisting at casting their peats, and building their fold fences.

*Rents and Size of Farms.*—The valued rent is L. 3751, 13s. 4d. Scots; the real rent may be about L. 1500 Sterling. The general rent of infield ground is 15s. or 16s. the acre, although some of it is set at L. 1 and upwards; good outfield sets for 6s. or 7s. and poor outfield from 2s. 6d. to 5s. The size of the farms is various: There are 3 farms which contain upwards of 300 acres; but two of these are set off by the tenants in smaller farms, and they do not occupy above one half of them. The general size of the other farms may be about 120 or 100, and some from 60 to 80 acres.



*Roads and Bridges.*—The roads have been made by statute-labour, and are still kept in repair by the same means. I will not say that the statute-labour is not sufficient for this purpose, but in the remiss manner in which it is exacted and executed, it is by no means sufficient for keeping them in proper repair; and it is pretty certain, that much more work might be carried on by commuting it, even at the low rate at which the law fixes it, of 1 s. 6 d. each man for the season. I believe an act of Parliament, obliging the country people to pay money in place of working, would be a most essential service to the country. It is doing the gentlemen, in this corner, no more than justice to say, that they have of late been very attentive, and at considerable expence in building bridges; and there is great reason to think, that in a few years, bridges will be erected in every place where there is any necessity for them.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, 40 or 50 years ago, the numbers were 575. At present, (1791), there are exactly 538 souls, of whom 284 are males, and 254 females. Upon an average of 10 years, there have been 10 births, and 5 marriages yearly. As there is no register of burials kept, I cannot ascertain the number; but, from the best accounts, I suppose there are about 7 yearly at an average. The population of this parish is much the same now, as it has been for these many years past. Indeed, after the year 1782, the number of inhabitants decreased about 40 or 50, owing to some farms becoming vacant, after that calamitous period; but these are now occupied by new tenants. A Seceding meeting-house was built within this parish last summer, but there are only 2 families of professed Seceders in it. There are also 2 families of Episcopalians.

Stipend,



*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The living consists of 5 chalders of victual, half meal, half bear, L. 24, 8 s. Sterling, and a glebe of about 5 acres. The present manse was built in 1775, and the church in 1787. There are 7 heritors, of whom only Mr Buchan of Auchmacoy, the patron, resides in it.—As this parish is divided by the Ythan, in the manner above mentioned, scholars could not easily pass the river to a school situated on any one side of it. Many years ago, therefore, a schoolmaster was placed on each side of the water, and the salary, which is only 100 merks Scots, and the other perquisites, were equally divided between them. But from this division of the emoluments, which was intended for the accommodation of the parish, both sides of the water are in fact deprived of the benefit of a schoolmaster; the encouragement being so small, that no person qualified for teaching, can accept of it.—There is no parochial fund for the support of the poor, except the weekly collections, which amount, upon an average, to about L. 12 Sterling yearly; and even this small sum is sufficient for the poor, as I have seldom known the number on the roll to exceed 5 or 6.—There is only 1 alehouse, kept at the lint-mill, for the accommodation of those who bring their lint from a distance, to be dressed at it.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—Among the advantages of this parish, may be mentioned, that the soil in general is very improvable. I do not suppose there are 20 acres in the whole parish, that may not be improved to advantage, considering the easy access that there is to lime, by means of the Ythan, the most distant parts of the parish not having above 4 English miles of land carriage. The navigation of this river also affords easy access to coals for fuel, which is a matter of the utmost importance to this parish, as there is no moss in it, and the mosses in the neighbouring



bouring parishes, from which they get their peats, are pretty much exhausted. This readily suggests, that taking the duty off the coal would be a great means of meliorating the condition of the inhabitants; as, in that case, they would not only have fuel at a cheaper rate, but would have it in their power to employ that time in improving their farms, which is at present necessarily occupied in providing their peats, which in general employs a good part of their summer work, both of themselves and their horses. Considering the easy access that there is to coals, I think I need not mention the scarcity of moss as a disadvantage to this parish; because, if these circumstances would induce them to make use of coals wholly for fuel, it would, upon the whole, be for their advantage.—It may also be added, that giving them longer leases, and suitable encouragement for inclosing their farms, would be another mean of bettering their condition, by exciting a spirit of improvement.

NUM



## NUMBER LVII.

## PARISH OF GLENHOLM,

## (COUNTY OF PEEBLES.)

*By the Rev. Mr BERNARD HALDAN.*

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*Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

THIS parish seems to derive its name from the nature and form of the spot; the most considerable part of it being a glen or strath, through which a small river runs, having some flat grounds along the river side, which grounds are commonly called holms.—It is situated in an inland country, distant from Peebles, the county town, about 12 miles S. W.; in the presbytery of Biggar, and Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It was anciently a curacy, pertaining to the parsonage of Stobo; when presbytery was established, it was comprehended in the presbytery of Peebles, and afterwards was joined to that of Biggar. The post road to Dumfries runs through the lower part of this parish. On the road here, at the distance of 28 miles from Edinburgh, in the opening of a strath, about a mile in breadth, is a small river, called Holm's water, crossing the road, which comes down between two ridges of hilly ground. The ascent of the hilly ground on both sides the water is easy and gradual, for a mile above the church; on the sides  
of



of the braes and flats along the water, there is arable ground, which produces very good grain; the higher parts are a mixture of green and heath; but the tops of the hills are generally heath. The strath becomes narrower, and terminates in a high hill, which separates this parish from that of Cultar. In the lower end of the parish, where the river crosses the high road, the country opens to the north east on both sides. This parish hath also a considerable extent from north to south; it begins about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile north from Holm's water, and runs south along the Dumfries road upwards of 4 miles, 3 of which are upon the banks of Tweed. By far the greatest part is sheep pasture; the arable ground is generally of a loose and sharp soil, of a moderate depth, and in the spots that are best cultivated, the crops are strong and very productive. As this country is high and hilly, the air is damp, impregnated with vapour; mists frequently hover about the tops of the hills; the clouds are often intercepted in their course, by the hills at the head of this strath, and brought down, so that we have more frequent rains than in the low country: hence it is often a wet day at the head of this water, when it is dry weather in the lower end of the parish; but notwithstanding dampness is the general quality of the air in this place, there have been seasons when it has suffered severely through drought. Colds and rheumatisms seem to be the prevailing distempers. There is a slate quarry, which continued for many years to be wrought, but was some time ago given up. There is also a limestone quarry, which provides the farmers in this neighbourhood with lime for improving their land.

*Population.*—The numbers, according to Dr Webster's report, 40 or 50 years ago, were 392. The population appears to have been greater formerly than now, as the grounds



grounds were then parcelled out in smaller possessions; and this is generally the case throughout this country, especially with respect to the sheep farms, as the management of a sheep farm does not require such a constant superintendence as renders the residence of the possessor to be necessary; hence there are many instances of one farmer holding several farms, and some of them at a considerable distance from the place of his residence. One consequence of this practice is, that in this way, a sheep farm will let at a higher rate than otherwise, as the support of this family is not to depend wholly on the profits of that one farm. At present there are 300 souls: was the account to be taken in the summer season, it would amount to some more, by the additional number of maid servants, hired for the purpose of milking ewes, and an addition of herds. Of the above 300, 135 are males, 165 are females, 76 are under the age of 10, 72 are from 10 to 20. The annual average of births is 9. So far as can be collected from observation, the annual average of deaths is 3 or 4 at most. The annual average of marriages is 2. There are 10 handicraftsmen, 42 male servants, 24 female, 3 students at the University of Edinburgh, 14 Seceders, 2 persons who were born in Jamaica, 158 who were born in other parishes in Scotland, 44 married men, including widowers, and 18 bachelors, reckoning them from 20 years and upwards. Marriages have produced 4 children at an average: none have been obliged to leave the parish for want of employment. There are 55 inhabited houses.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The land rent is at least L. 1000. There are about 5000 sheep, 150 black cattle, 60 horses, 340 bolls of grain sown, 50 acres in sown grass, 28 acres in turnip, a part of which are allotted for sheep to pasture on, and part to fatten cattle for the butcher, with 14 acres of potatoes. The parish is able to supply itself with provisions. There



There is some grain yearly exported, but less than formerly, the grounds being more in pasture. About 50 score of sheep are yearly exported for the butcher. The time of sowing is in the first good weather in March, and the ordinary time of reaping is in September. There was anciently a considerable extent of sheep ground at the head of the parish, which was common to most of the heritors, but was some years ago divided. There are 12 ploughs, generally of the Scotch kind; 36 carts. Besides the residing heritors, who farm most of their lands, there are 6 tenants, and 3 or 4 very small ones. There are 2 disadvantages this place labours under. From its situation, the crops are often hurt by the early frosts in autumn. Sometimes the frost will touch the crop in the month of August. In that season, the hoar frost will sometimes hover as a mist over the low damp grounds, and the crops in those tracks are more or less hurt. It has been observed, that in a field of potatoes, growing in a declivity, that on the same ridge of potatoes, in the lower end, the leaves would be blackened with the frost, while in the upper end, they have remained in their proper verdure. The losses to which the crops are liable through frosts, as well as the advanced price of labour, are inducing some to turn their grounds more into pasture. Another disadvantage, is the great distance from coal, which is no less than 14 or 15 miles, and the labour of driving home fuel gives a great interruption to the operations of husbandry.

*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The value of the living is about L. 70 a-year, including 2 chalders of meal, and 1 chalders of bear. The glebe is about 6 acres, very good in quality; the inconvenience arising from the smallness of the glebe, is in some measure remedied, by the incumbent's renting a small farm of arable ground.



ground. The patron is the Duke of Queensberry. There are 8 heritors, of whom 3 reside.—The salary of the schoolmaster is 100 merks Scots, which is the *minimum* appointed by law. Fees for teaching, are 1s. the quarter for reading, and 2s. 6d. for writing and arithmetic. The number of scholars has been between 20 and 30. The salary and emoluments do not amount to the value of a labouring servant's wages and board; and hence the present schoolmaster, finding his income quite insufficient for the support of his family, has had recourse to shopkeeping, and this has created a prejudice against the school, and made several averse from sending their children to it, apprehending that the course of teaching will be much interrupted by the business of the shop, which has greatly reduced the number of scholars, whereby the education of the youth in this place sustains a loss that is to be regretted.—The number of the poor has been sometimes 4, sometimes 3, or 2, at present there is only one who is supplied regularly once a week, and other two who receive occasionally. The annual average of the collections is about L. 6, 10s. It is a loss to the poor funds here, that the most opulent of the heritors do not reside. And though indeed the law makes a provision by assessments, in the case of the collections becoming deficient; yet the residents in the parish would reckon it a hardship to be equally involved in an assessment with the non-residing heritors, notwithstanding they contribute by their weekly collections. At the same time it must be owned, to the honour of both residing and non-residing heritors, that in winter 1782 and 1783, when there was extraordinary occasion of attending to the poor, they very generously contributed a sum to purchase meal.

*Prices, Wages, and Fuel.*—The price of provisions is nearly the same with that of Edinburgh market.—The wages of labourers in husbandry are generally 8 d. a-day



and their meat, and 1 s. without their meat. The wages of a male servant are L. 6 a-year. The wages of a female servant are L. 1, 5 s. in the winter half year, and L. 2 in the summer half year. The reason why the summer wages do so much exceed the winter, is the labour of the ewes milking, which is reckoned a severe task, which nothing but high wages can induce them to engage in; and part of that wage having been by long use paid in wool, the rise in the price of that commodity has contributed to raise their wages.—With respect to fuel, about 40 years ago peat was almost the only kind of fuel that was used in this parish, of which there is to be got very good in kind, but at a great distance, on the top of steep hills, and difficult of access; and hence the principal inhabitants have entirely quitted the use of that species of fuel for many years past, and find they can more easily provide themselves with coals, and only such as are thirled to certain mills, (of which there are 2 in the parish), do cast a few on those heights for the purpose of drying their grain at the kiln, which they are obliged to furnish by their thirlage. The cottagers are provided with a kind of peat, of an inferior quality, which are to be found in low damp grounds, near their dwellings, and are such as require a part of coal to be used along with them. The coals are brought from a great distance; some from Douglas, which is reckoned best in quality, and is about 14 or 15 miles distant; and some are brought from Carlop, which is somewhat nearer. The price is 1 s. 6 d. a load, the load being 12 stone Dutch weight.

*Antiquities.*—There are in the parish remains or vestiges of 6 old castles or towers, which were inhabited by the ancient proprietors of the grounds, and seem to have been built



built in a strong manner, for defence against the borderers, who made frequent incursions in those days. There are vestiges of what appear like camps, in 3 several places; but there is no tradition concerning them, to show whether they have been encampments in time of actual war, or have belonged to a chain of watching posts, to convey an alarm from one part of the country to another; for they are in lofty situations.—There is a plain by the side of Tweed, on which there are several mounts, apparently artificial; on one of them there was an appearance of several rising spots of ground. The proprietor had the curiosity to cause one of them be digged, and there found the skeleton of a man, with bracelets on his arms; the body was inclosed in a stone building, with a stone cover; and nigh him was an urn. Another was also opened in the same spot, where they found the remains of a body, greatly consumed.

*Post-office.*—The conveyance of letters to this parish, is by the post-office at Bield, which is 7 miles distance. It is reckoned that this post-office is not placed in the most favourable situation for accommodating the greater part of those in this district, who have frequent correspondence by post; and that there is a public house in this parish, on the post-road, to which the opening of the bag might be transferred with advantage, viz. Rachane Mill. At Bield there is only one gentleman's family, and the minister; whereas there are 9 or 10 in this parish and neighbourhood, whom a post-office in the above mentioned place would accommodate. If it be not thought proper to remove the post-office from Bield, there should be allowed a bag to open at Rachane Mill. The gentlemen in this parish, and others in the neighbourhood, lately joined in a  
petition



petition to the post-office for that purpose, representing that the having this commodious conveyance, would encourage such an additional number of letters sent by post, as would more than defray the expence that would be incurred; and that, if it should not, they would bind themselves to pay the extra expence. But their application was refused.

NUM.



## NUMBER LVIII.

## PARISH OF FALKLAND,

## (COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By the Rev. Mr ANDREW BROWN.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil, Surface, &c.*

THE ancient name of the parish was *Kilgour*; in the Gaelic language, *Cul-gawn* is the 'hill of goats.' Its modern name is evidently taken from that of the town, or burgh, and probably took place in that year in which the church was transferred from Kilgour to Falkland.—It is situated in the presbytery of Cupar, and Synod of Fife. The contiguous parishes are, on the W. Strathmiglo, which also, by a narrow strip of land stretching along the south side of the water of Eden, separates it from Auchtermuchty, and bounds it on the N.; on the E. Kettle and Markinch; and on the S. Leslie and Portmoak. It is of a regular form, and approaches nearly to a square of about 10,000 acres. Its general aspect is not unpleasant. On the N. there is a considerable plain or flat, called the Park of Falkland, extending about a mile and an half square, from which the surface gradually rises to that hilly ridge which forms the Lomonds. That ridge, which is the steepest, a little west of the town, is skirted with furze, above which it presents



a beautiful verdure at all seasons, and rises into a conical summit, called the eastern Lomond. On the eastern side of this hill the ridge gradually slopes, and is partly verdant and partly heathy. On the west the descent is steeper, to the gap or opening which separates it from the western Lomond, and which extends above a mile nearly on a level. Upon the northern front of this intermediate space, the eastern part of it, which swells beyond the line of the ridge, rises in 4 tires of hills, resembling so many segments of a circle. The lowest is totally covered with a short heath, interspersed here and there with abrupt and rugged masses of freestone rock. It is well named the Black Hill. From its summit, as you approach the foot of the second, the surface becomes verdant; but the face of the hill, which is called the Stony Fold, is covered with loose heaps of blue moor-stone, very hard, and of the finest grit. They are found in various shapes and sizes, from that of the smallest pinnings, to the most solid binding masses employed in building. The sides and top of this hill are clothed with a close and beautiful verdure, from which it is named the Green Hill, and is reckoned superior, as a sheep walk, to all the surrounding pasture. Of similar form, but less magnitude, are the two remaining hills, by which you rise to the common ridge which divides the Lomonds. Their grass, too, is of coarser quality than that of the Green Hill, but still very fit for pasture. The western part of this intermediate space, and which is divided from the eastern by a deep ravine, stretches from the circular into the rectilinear appearance; and from the first ascent, which is higher, more abrupt and broken, runs to the summit of the ridge, by three different ascents, bearing some resemblance to terrace walks in a hanging garden. From the summit of the hill and ridge, the southern aspect has little variety, but a gradual and uniform descent, till it joins the parishes of  
*Leslie*



Leslie and Portmoak.—The soil, as well as the surface, is considerably diversified. Part is of a light brown loam, upon a red bottom, part a light black sand, with a mixture of moss, and in the plain or flat of Falkland Park, already mentioned, part of it is barren sand and gravel, covered with short heath and furze, but a greater part of it deep black moss, generated from the oak and other timber which grew there, when it was inclosed for a hunting park to royal sportsmen, some of which hath been cultivated at great expence, and the rest is lying in its natural state. That track of land which extends almost the whole length of the parish, from west to east, between the plain and the foot of the eastern Lomond, is generally of deep loam, and needs only proper culture to produce both sure and luxuriant crops. On the south side of the hill and ridge, the soil is spongy and wet, more fit for pasture than for the plough. About one half of the parish may be considered as pasture-ground, in which is included the eastern Lomond, and that part of the western which lies within the parish, both of which are a common to the contiguous heritors, and the town of Falkland.—The air is of a middle temperature, rather dry than moist, particularly about the town of Falkland, and that track which stretches along the foot of the hill, both to the east and west. For, on the one hand, the Lomonds attract the moist vapours floating in the surrounding atmosphere, and either collect them in fogs about their head and shoulders, or conduct them along their range in showers. On the other hand, the creeping fogs which set in from the east, more frequently in spring and autumn, attracted by the water of Eden, intersecting the valley between Falkland and Auchtermuchty, and by the planting and marshy ground, settle there, and leave the air more dry and pure on the rising ground, or that part of the parish which is most populous. In general, therefore, the inhabitants



tants are very healthy. Formerly, those who lived on the low grounds are said to have been subject to aguish complaints, which, no doubt, arose from their vicinity to moss and marsh, and the stagnation of water from the overflowing of the Eden, which sometimes covered a great part of the valley. But of late years, the mosses and marshes have been much drained, and in this neighbourhood the Eden confined within its banks, by a new straight cut or channel, and the aguish complaints are less frequent. From the Lomonds, on all sides, issue springs and small streams of the purest and most wholesome water, so that the inhabitants enjoy in great perfection that necessary of life, and most salutary beverage.

The Lomonds are the only hills which deserve notice, and that not from their natural magnitude, but their relative situation and appearance. As being the highest ground of the county, they command a very extensive and variegated prospect into many neighbouring and distant counties, and are seen by travellers, in some directions, at a very great distance. The eastern, which is the most regular and beautiful, is said to be about 550 yards above the level of the plain already mentioned; and where it is most accessible, seems to have been fortified near the top, with a deep trench, for what purpose, there is no record or tradition. Very near the highest part of the hill, there is a small cavity, about a foot and an half diameter, which, in rainy weather, collects some water, and is called by the common people a spring or well, but by some travellers a volcanic crater; and the stones immediately under the northern summit, though common to the whole ridge, and without any appearance of calcination or vitrification, are carried away in triumph, and exhibited as specimens of volcanic lava found in the eastern Lomond. The western hill is considerably higher, and has on its top a large heap of loose stones, or a cairn, such as is found on many hills  
and



and mountains of Scotland. On the eastern Lomond is plenty of limestone rock, a few feet below, and in some places very near the surface, and easily wrought. There are also strata of coal of very good quality, but not yet discovered in such quantity as to be thought worth the digging, especially in a country where there is abundance of fine coal, at a reasonable rate, in the neighbouring parishes of Leslie and Markinch. On the south side of the same hill, too, was formerly discovered a lead-mine of very rich ore; but either through unskilfulness, or necessity of circumstances, given up. It is now opened again, and with hope of success. There is also in the parish, particularly on the Lomond hills, plenty of sand, and moorstone of good quality for building, and easily got at. Marl and fuller's earth have been discovered, but in small quantities.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's reports, the numbers were 1795. In the parish at present are 2198 souls. Of these 937 are in the town of Falkland, 120 in Ballinblae, a contiguous village, 193 in Newton, another village, 476 in Freuchie, another village, and 472 in what is properly the country part of the parish.

Of these 287 Males, 265 Fem. from 1 to 10 years of age.

|      |   |      |   |                |
|------|---|------|---|----------------|
| 235  | — | 210  | — | from 10 to 20  |
| 374  | — | 447  | — | from 20 to 50  |
| 139  | — | 156  | — | from 50 to 70  |
| 33   | — | 52   | — | from 70 to 100 |
| —    | — | —    | — | —              |
| 1068 | — | 1130 | — | —              |

In a state of celibacy, including that of widowhood, are 304, of whom 91 are males, and 213 females, reckoning the state of celibacy from 25 years of age and upwards. The present number of the married, and of those in a state of widowhood, who have had children, is 464. Of these have



been born 2373 children, second marriages included, which is 5 to each family. The proportion of barren to prolific marriages, is as 1 to 31. Of the Established Church 1860, Seceders 338.

The annual births, marriages and deaths, for the preceding 7 years, from 1784 to 1790 inclusive, are as follows, *viz.*

|         | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Tot. Births.</i> | <i>Mar.</i> | <i>Deaths.</i> |
|---------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|
| In 1784 | 28            | 21              | 49                  | 14          | 36             |
| 1785    | 26            | 24              | 50                  | 18          | 29             |
| 1786    | 33            | 22              | 55                  | 21          | 33             |
| 1787    | 25            | 24              | 49                  | 16          | 29             |
| 1788    | 32            | 22              | 54                  | 12          | 48             |
| 1789    | 30            | 26              | 56                  | 11          | 32             |
| 1790    | 41            | 28              | 69                  | 20          | 30             |

The annual average of births for the preceding 7 years, is, of males 30, of females 24, of marriages 16, and of deaths 34. The proportion between the annual births and the whole population, is as 3 to 122; between the annual marriages and the whole population, as 1 to 131, and between the annual deaths and the whole population, as 1 to 61. These calculations and proportions are founded on the parish register, and according to it, as near the truth as whole numbers will admit. But the register of annual deaths is not pretended to be nearly accurate, as is evident from the proportion between them and the whole population, which, it is believed, falls considerably short of the annual proportion of mankind that die, even in the most favourable of the common circumstances of human life. For many years the parish of Falkland has been considered as very stationary, in respect of population, manufacture and agriculture. Of late it has made some progress, though slow and gradual. The increase of population in the last 7 years



years is 168, and arises more from the increase in the families, than from that of their number.

*Manufacture.*—In the parish are 337 tradesmen, of whom 50 are apprentices. Of these 231 are weavers, 45 shoemakers, 22 tailors, 12 masons, 16 wrights, including wheel, plough, cart, wrights, and cabinet-makers, of the last very few, and 11 blacksmiths, each trade including its proportion of apprentices.—The weaving of coarse linen is the principal branch of manufacture, and that is principally carried on in the town and villages. Supposing the number of looms well employed, and it is the utmost that can be supposed, 200, the quantity of yarn annually manufactured, at 300 spindles to each loom, is 60,000. The value of the above yarn, manufactured and brought to market, at 3 s. 9 d. the spindle, is

L. 11,250 0 0

A complete tradesman will weave 400 spindle in the year, which at 9 d. the spindle, the highest price given, is

L. 15 0 0

Deduct for winding 200 spindles woof, at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d.

the spindle,

1 5 0

The weaver's wages are

L. 13 15 0

The markets for their green cloth are Auchtermuchty and Cupar. The other trades do little more than supply the demands of the inhabitants. There are also cloth-merchants and grocers, fully adequate to the demands of the place.

*Agriculture.*—Agriculture, from its long rude state, has of late years made some progress, and the arable part of the parish is considerably improved, both in beauty and richness. Still, however, there is much room for improvement. That greater progress has not been made, may be accounted



accounted for from the particular state of the parish. The great body of the inhabitants live in the town and villages. Of these there are a number of small proprietors, and others who farm from 1 to 2, 3 or 4 acres, for convenience, generally tradesmen, who depend upon their trade for the subsistence of their families, and by consequence have neither leisure nor skill to manage their little farms to the best advantage. From this division of the land, about the town and villages, into small portions, it lies uninclosed and naked, and from the want of a more skilful ploughing and rotation of crops, though well manured, it has neither that beauty nor richness, to which its soil and situation are both naturally disposed. There are a few farms of from 2 to 3 and 4 ploughs in the parish, of which that of Falkland Wood or Park is the most extensive. There are some inclosures, and a taste for them is prevailing; but, in general, the land is very naked. Oats and barley are the prevailing crops. Peas and turnip are raised in small proportions. Artificial grass, as clover and rye-grass, begins to be cultivated with more attention. Flax too is raised, and in some years in considerable quantities. The whole produce, however, is not sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. The old valuation of the parish, as it stands in the cess-books, is L. 5824. The present bears a proportion to the increased value of land. The farms, from the various quality of the soil, are very differently rented; but, it is believed, in general moderately, considering the late rise of rents. That of the land immediately about the town is from L. 2 to L. 2, 10s. the acre. The price of labour and servants wages are, as in the country in general, high. The day-labourer has 10d. in winter, and 1s. or 1s. 2d. in summer. Men servants have from L. 5 to L. 7, women from L. 2 to L. 3 wages.

*Burgh*



*Burgh of Falkland.*—Falkland was erected into a burgh by King James II. in the year 1458. The preamble to the charter of erection states, as reasons of granting it, the frequent residence of the Royal Family at the manor of Falkland, and the damage and inconvenience sustained by the many prelates, peers, barons, nobles, and others of their subjects, who came to their country seat, for want of inn-keepers and victuallers. This charter was renewed by King James VI. in the year 1595. In this charter is mentioned the right of holding a weekly market, and 4 public markets or fairs, yearly. To these last have been added other 2 markets, 1 in April, called the Lintseed-market, and 1 in September, called the Harvest-market. The 4 old markets are the most frequented, and very considerable numbers of both horses and black cattle are sold and bought at them. What is commonly called the set of the burgh, is as follows. There are 3 bailies, 15 councillors, of whom 1 is treasurer, and a clerk. The councillors elect themselves annually, and generally continue councillors till chosen bailies. The bailies are chosen by a majority of the councillors, and may continue as long as that majority pleases. No old bailie is ever chosen a councillor, and can come into council again only as bailie. The revenue of the burgh arises from custom at markets, landed property, and a mill, and is, *communibus annis*, from L. 100 to L. 110, exclusive of public burdens: A sum which, in the hands of patriotism and œconomy, might be turned to much public good in so small a town. It has not altogether been misapplied. There is one monument of public spirit in the town, a plentiful supply of fine water. It was brought into it in the year 1781. The expence amounted to near L. 400. Partiality for the place of his residence, and that share of credit which every individual naturally assumes to himself, from connection with a famed public, would naturally



turally lead a writer to wish, that he could add more instances of public spirit and beneficence, or that, by a course of strict and judicious œconomy, the means of doing good were accumulating. In this respect, Falkland claims no distinguished superiority to similarly circumstanced burghs, nor is it perhaps justly chargeable with greater degeneracy. It only adds to that mass of considerations which calls aloud for borough reformation. Great as the evil is of the want of œconomy, or the mismanagement of public revenue, it is small, compared to the neglect or mismanagement of public authority and power. Magistracy is highly respectable, and will always be respected by every man of sense, and friend to the public weal. It is more particularly so when it is contemplated, as descending from the supreme, to every subordinate magistrate, invested with the sacred majesty of public law, and circumscribed by the rules of equal justice. But where office is not decently supported, it were better not to exist. There are not wanting, in our country, many instances in which the vigilance, activity, and patriotism of magistrates do them great honour, and mark them out to public respect, as public blessings; at the same time, it cannot escape the observation of partiality itself, that there is sometimes little or nothing of its spirit to be found in those who are invested with the office. There is a natural disposition in mankind, to respect and reverence official authority; but when it is degraded by office-bearers, the contempt and irreverence which naturally fall upon them, descend to their office, and are productive of the most pernicious consequences to the great body of the people.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend is 4 chalders of bear, 2 chalders of meal, and 600 merks. Besides, there is allowed for communion-elements 100 merks, and in lieu

of



of a manse and glebe, only a chalder of bear. Mr Sandilands of Nuthill is patron.—There is no house nor garden for the schoolmaster, in hiring of which, his legal salary of about L. 6, 10s. is nearly exhausted. The average number of his scholars is about 80, of whom the small proportion that read Latin and arithmetic, pay only 2s. 6d. the quarter, and the English scholars 1s. 6d. These, with the perquisites arising from the offices of session-clerk and precentor, constitute the whole of his emolument, on which he depends for his own and the subsistence of his family. His emoluments not admitting of an assistant, both limits the number of his scholars, within what the populousness of the parish might afford, and render it necessary to employ other teachers in different parts of the parish. To those who have any regard for the education and right principling of the common people, it must appear evident, that no class of men are of more importance to society, or more deserving of patronage than schoolmasters. The legal provision made for them, was, at the time, adequate to the object in view, and the happy effects of it soon were, and still are, conspicuous in our country. Education was universally diffused. The lowest classes of the people were taught to read the scriptures, instructed in the first principles of religion and morality, and thus prepared in schools for being further enlightened and improved by the theological and moral lectures of churches. Hence the distinguished superiority of the common people of Scotland in knowledge and sobriety. Parish schools have hitherto been the great nurseries for the church, and many other learned professions. There many men of usefulness and eminence in the different departments of society, have received those rudiments of literature which they could not otherwise have obtained, but to the great loss of society and of their country, must have continued blinded with the common mass, and,



and, like the desert rose, wasted, in vain, their uncultivated sweetness. All who value these advantages, and wish to secure them to their country, will see the necessity of interposing, for the greater encouragement of that order of men, on whose abilities and fidelity they so much depend.—Considering the populousness of the parish, and the town and villages which are in it, the proportion of poor is as small as in the generality of parishes similarly circumstanced. Of those who receive regular supply, the annual average is about 15, and of those who are occasionally assisted about 22. The funds for this supply are, the weekly collections at the church-door, the yearly rent of some land, the interest of a small sum of money, perquisites at marriages, when the bride is of the parish, and at burials, for the use of the mortcloth or pall. These, at an average of the last 7 years, amount annually to about L. 44, of which the annual collection is L. 24.

*Inns and Ale-houses.*—The market for every thing generally bears a proportion to the demand. The unfrequency of travellers by the way of Falkland, especially since the great north road was made by Kinross and Queensferry, has greatly diminished the demand for inns. Still, however, there are 2 houses in it that go by the name of inns.—Of ale-houses, for which there is a greater demand from the populousness of the town and neighbourhood, there is a greater number. There are 10 in the town of Falkland, 1 in Newton, and 3 in Freuchie. These generally belong to brewers; and though still more than are favourable to either the health or morals of the inhabitants, are said not to exceed half the number of what have sometimes been known in the parish. This diminution of inns and ale-houses has arisen from the increased demand for spirituous liquors. It were injustice to the generally sober and industrious



strious character of the parishioners, to say, that they are either idle or prodigal; but where there are temptations, some will always be tempted.

*Antiquities.*—Of this parish, the most memorable antiquity is the ruinous palace of Falkland, which, for many years, was the occasional residence of the Royal Family of Scotland.—On the S. side of the Eden, directly between Falkland and Auchtermuchty, are the remains of what is called a Danish camp. That it was so, is probable from the name of a neighbouring village, Dunshelt, supposed to be a corruption of Danes-halt, and to have derived its name from the circumstance of the Danes having formed an encampment in its vicinity. Another circumstance adds to the probability of the tradition, that it is of a circular form. The remains of this camp consist of five concentric circular trenches, nearly equidistant from one another, and seem to have been separated only by the bank of earth thrown up from each. The central spot inclosed by the first trench is about 22 feet diameter, and where they are not demolished, the trenches are at present from 10 to 15 feet wide.—On the E. of Nuthill, and nearly half a mile W. from the house, are 4 parallel trenches, in the form of inverted wedges, of from 250 to 300 yards in length, evidently the work of art.—And the same is to be said of what is called the Maiden Castle, on the same estate, situated above half a mile distant, on the S. side of the green hill already mentioned. It is an oblong circular mound, gradually rising from a level on the E. to a steep and abrupt termination on the W. of nearly 400 yards in circumference, and, except the steep part on the W. and the level on the E. where are the remains of a stone wall, is surrounded with a ditch of 12 feet wide.



## NUMBER LIX.

PARISH OF BANCHORY DAVINICK,  
(COUNTIES OF ABERDEEN AND KINCARDINE.)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE MORISON.*

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*Name, Situation, Surface, Air, &c.*

**B**ANCHORY, the name of the parish, is said to signify in Gaelic, ‘an opening between two hills;’ and is descriptive of the situation of the church and manse. It is not agreed as to the meaning of the word Davinick.—This parish is divided into two parts by the river Dee, which being the boundary between the counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine or Mearns, that part which lies on the north side of the river, is in the former county, and that which is on the south side, in the latter. Although the church stands in the county of Kincardine, the parish is in the Synod and presbytery of Aberdeen. The boundings and figure of that part of the parish which lies in the county of Kincardine, will be best understood by consulting Garden’s map of that county; the other part is a strip about 1 mile in breadth, and about 4 in length, lying along the bank of the river, and stretching both farther E. and farther W. than the parish does upon the opposite bank. On the E.  
this



this part is bounded by the parish of Old-Machar, or Old Aberdeen, on the N. by Newhills, and on the W. by Peterculter. A line drawn from one extremity of the parish to the other, would, I suppose, measure 7 miles. The general appearance of the country is rugged and stony. The kind of stone which prevails is blue granite, of which several quarries are wrought for the purpose of sending to London, as well as for building at Aberdeen. The hills are covered with heath, and the air by no means unhealthy. There is no distemper, so far as I know, that can be said to be peculiarly prevalent here; and the people might enjoy good health, did they not drink too freely, particularly of ardent spirits. Besides the quantity of gin smuggled in upon the coast, which by the way is not so great as formerly, we have two whisky distillers in the parish, and 10 or 12 public houses. The soil in this parish is not naturally rich; it is in general light, and either mossy or sandy, but when properly managed it is not ungrateful, and produces good grain, particularly on the river side, and on some parts of the sea-coast.

*Agriculture, &c.*—A spirit for agriculture has begun within these few years to make its appearance in some parts of this parish. Still, however, it is with a few exceptions confined to those farms which lie near the river, particularly on the north side. On that side the soil and exposure are good, and the heritor, Mr Menzies of Pitfodil, has wisely granted leases of 19 years and a life, with an obligation to take off houses and fences to a certain extent, at the expiry of the lease. The change which this has effected on that part of his estate, within these five years, is astonishing. On this side there is not the same encouragement, and less consequently is done. Besides, in all the parish south of  
the



the river, there is a vast quantity of moss, and being in the vicinity of Aberdeen, the tenants who pay upwards of L. 1 an acre for small bits of land, depend for a livelihood upon driving peats to town, where they find a ready market for them. This is one cause why the cultivation of the land is very much neglected. Another bar to agriculture, is the high price of labour. A day labourer, if a good hand, earns 1 s. a day for 9 months of the year, and 9 d. the other 3; and the wages of a capable farm servant, who has his victuals found, are seldom under L. 6, and sometimes as high as L. 9 Sterling a-year. And a third cause of the uncultivated state of our fields, is the poverty of the people, which renders many of them unable either to stock or manage their farms to advantage. I must, however, for the honour of spirit and exertion, relate one instance of the increased value of land, which is remarkable. I allude to Mr Fordyce of Ardo, one of those brave men who circumnavigated the globe with Lord Anson, and suffered so many hardships in the service of their country. This gentleman, after accomplishing the voyage, returned to Scotland in the year 1744, with the well-earned wages of his toil, and purchased the estate of Ardo in this parish, where he has resided ever since. When he took possession of his estate, he found the mansion-house, such as it was, with the garden, and about 40 acres of land, in the hands of a tenant, who paid about L. 3 : 6 : 8 Sterling annually. Having it in contemplation at that time to go abroad again, he asked the man if he would renew his lease, which was expired, at the annual-rent of L. 5 Sterling, his answer was, 'Na, by my faith, God has geen me mair wit.' Mr Fordyce settled, and employed himself in improving the land, which is now in a good state of cultivation, and would rent at L. 1, 5 s. an acre. Little has hitherto been done in the way of planting,



ing, although a great deal of the ground is fit for nothing else. Some plantations that were made about 40 years ago, being chiefly of Scotch fir, are not in a very thriving condition.

*River, Sea-coast, &c.*—The river Dee is not navigable here, but produces excellent salmon. The different proprietors upon the river let their fishings; but as the fish are not got in great quantity at this distance from the mouth, they fetch but small rents. I suppose the gross rent of all the salmon-fishings in the parish, would be found to be short of L. 100 Sterling. The river Dee, from its long course, and the mountainous country through which it runs, is subject to very sudden and very high floods. In the year 1768, one of these happened in the middle of harvest, which swept the whole crop of the haughs, and also a great many sheep from the inches, or small islands, which are frequent in the midst of the river. We had another swell of the river, not much inferior to the former, in November last, the water rose  $9\frac{1}{2}$  or 10 feet above its usual level. This swell was occasioned by a storm of wind and rain from the S. E. and it is remarked here, that rain from the E. always fills the river more than from any other quarter. Luckily when this flood happened, the harvest was nearly over. The ravages which it made in overthrowing bulwarks and fences, tearing up the cultivated land in some places, and covering it with sand and stones in others, were truly astonishing.—The sea-coast, which extends 3 or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from N. to S. is throughout high and rocky. No part of it affords a safe harbour for any vessel larger than a fishing boat. Of these we have a good many. At Findon, (which gives name to haddocks when split, and dried in a particular way by the smoke of peat, and which are known



known and esteemed in most parts of Scotland,) there are 2 fishing boats, each of which requires 6 hands, and 3 smaller ones of yauls, wrought by four men each. At Portlethen, about a mile farther S. there are 3 of the larger boats, and 1 yaul, manned as those of Findon, and at Dounies, still farther to the southward, there is 1 yaul employed. The fishermen at Findon, have each an acre of land, a house, garden, liberty of fuel, and a right to the harbour, for L. 3 Sterling annually. Those at Portlethen have not a full acre of ground, and on that account pay 5s. less of rent. They fish pretty successfully for skate, ling, turbot, cod, haddocks, whittings, flounders, crabs, lobsters, &c. The vicinity of Aberdeen secures a good price. Haddocks this season, which has been a bad one for fishing, have sold from 2 s. to 6 s. the dozen, according to their size. —Whilst speaking of the coast, a remarkable incident may be mentioned, of which this parish was the scene. On the 19th August 1710, 7 boys, about 15 years of age each, sailed out of the harbour of St Andrew's in a little boat, and losing one of their oars, were driven into the ocean. After 6 days and 6 nights of continued fasting and labour, they got to shore alive, 4 miles south of Aberdeen, and 50 north of St Andrew's. A humane country man, John Shepherd, kindly received them into his house, and sent information of so moving an accident to the magistrates of Aberdeen, who dispatched their dean of guild, a physician, and a surgeon, to attend them. All of the boys were preserved in life, except the two youngest, who died soon after they came ashore. John Shepherd was presented with a silver cup in form of a boat, by Robert Bruce goldsmith in Edinburgh, father of one of the boys, in testimony of his gratitude for the active part he took in recovering his son.

*Population.*



*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 1495. The population at present amounts to about 1700. Of these 1700, no more than 744 are males, which leaves 956 females. I suppose this disproportion will be found to be greatest in country parishes in the vicinity of large towns.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The stipend at present, amounts to no more than L. 54 : 2 : 3 $\frac{2}{3}$  Sterling, 42 bolls 1 peck of meal, and 24 bolls 1 peck of bear; in which is included communion-element money, and L. 16 Scots allowed for grafs carried off by the river. The glebe is very little above the legal *minimum*. There are 10 heritors, 3 of whom reside.—The number of poor who are supplied quarterly, are from 20 to 30, besides a good many who receive occasional aid. Our funds consist of L. 5 Sterling, appropriated by a special deed for that purpose, out of the rents of the estate of Banchory, L. 3 : 6 : 8 out of those of Ardo, a piece of ground which yields L. 6 of free rent, and the interest of L. 25 of stocked money; besides our weekly collections, so much for the use of the parish mortcloth, and so much for the use of the burying-ground, exacted from every person who uses it, and who does not reside in the parish, and such fines or penalties as are levied from fornicators, &c. From all these sources together, we have an annual income of L. 45 Sterling at an average. I cannot help here expressing a wish, in which I am by no means singular, that fornicators and other scandalous persons were entirely turned over to the secular arm. Our discipline has no effect to check the evil, and exposes us to witness very disagreeable scenes of equivocation, falsehood, and perjury.



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—We have in general good materials for making roads, but the statute-labour, which is partly commuted, and partly paid in kind, is not sufficient for keeping them in repair. I am persuaded we never shall have good roads till turnpikes are established. Many of the country gentlemen are, I believe, sensible of this; but the measure would be strongly opposed by the town of Aberdeen, which would be severely affected by it, and which has an interest in the parish.—There are several very large cairns, both on the north side of the river, and towards the coast, and in one place in particular, a number of smaller ones are scattered over the moor near them. There is also in the south side of the parish, a Druidical temple that is worthy of notice. It is situated on an eminence about a mile and a half from the coast, and was till within these few years remarkably perfect. It consisted of three circles of stones within each other. The outer circle, which was about 45 feet in diameter, consisted of 12 large stones placed on end. The inner circles were composed of smaller stones, placed in the same manner, and between the two outermost upon the east side, there was a stone chest sunk in the earth, about 3 feet long, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide, which having been accidentally uncovered by a country man, he found an urn, which disclosed nothing but a little dust or ashes. A little farther down the hill, towards the S. E. there is another erection of the same kind. It consists of 1 circle of pretty large stones.



NUMBER LX.

PARISH OF DURISDEER,

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN M'KILL.*

*Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in the county and Synod of Dumfries, and in the presbytery of Penpont. It is almost surrounded with hills, except a pleasant opening to the S. and S. W. It has also three small openings, one W. in which is the road up the river Nith to Sanquhar, Air, &c. One N. in which is the road up Enterkin for Leadhills, Edinburgh, &c. One N. E. betwixt 2 hills, being a strait pass, known by the name of the Wall-path, leading to Edinburgh, &c. by Crawford Muir, and having in it the remains of an old earthen or mud-wall fort, called *Deers-Castle*, and which had formerly commanded the pass there, a little above the church and village of Durisdeer. The most of the parish has a fine exposure to the sun along the range of hills. The river Nith divides it. Its extent along the Nith, is about 5 computed miles: From the top of the Lowthers near Leadhills to Druidmilk, about 2 miles W. from Drumlanrig, it is fully 8. On the S. it is



bounded by the parish of Morton; on the S. W. by Penpont; on the W. N. W. and N. by Sanquhar; and on the N. E. and E. by Crawford. Its general appearance within the range of hills is flat; but on the banks of the Nith there is a good deal of steep ground. The Nith is fordable only in two or three places. There is a stone-bridge of three arches over it, near the foot of the parish. Carron, a fine clear rivulet, rising at the foot of the Lowthers, runs several miles down the E. side of the parish, then divides it from Morton, falls into Nith at Carron foot, and hath many acres of arable land, with a gentle declivity on its banks.—The soil, in general, is deep and fertile; in many places inclining to a reddish colour, and this colour increases in proportion to the height of the hills. The most remarkable mountains in the parish are the Lowthers, from the top of which, in a clear day, there is a most extensive and variegated prospect. The hills are partly covered with heath, partly with verdure, and a strong kind of grass called *Bent*. They are pastured with fine flocks of sheep of the short kind, as that species has hitherto been considered the most proper for the situation.—Freestone of various kinds is found. In several places there is the appearance of coal; and it is thought that some of the hills contain lead, as the mines of Leadhills and Wanlockhead are on the other side of the Lowthers.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's returns, the numbers were 1019. It is highly probable that this parish was more populous about the beginning of this century than at present. One or 2 tenants now possess places formerly occupied by several families. The parish now contains 1031 souls. There are only 2 villages; 1 containing about 100 persons, and another about 50.

The



|                                                   |   |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| The annual average of births for 19 years past is | - | 22 $\frac{2}{19}$ |
| _____ of deaths,                                  | - | 17                |
| _____ of marriages,                               | - | 8 $\frac{2}{19}$  |

During these last 19 years, 430 have been baptized, 323 have died, and 155 couples have been married. One person died lately at 95. And in 1773, died *Bessy Jamieson*, whose own account of her age was, that she remembered the *Merk Monday* being then a little girl. This remarkable Monday is said to have been in the year 1652. The number of farmers, excluding those who have small subjets, is 43. All the inhabitants are natives of Scotland, except 2 families from Ireland. There are 27 Seceders, and 7 of those who call themselves of the Reformed Presbytery. There has been only 1 instance of suicide since the year 1771, and the person who was guilty of it was evidently lunatic.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The produce of this parish is such, as is common in the southern parts of Scotland. Oak is the most plentiful species of trees, and sheep the most plentiful species of animals. Some farms bordering on the hills have upwards of 80 score. The breed of sheep might be improved here, by introducing the long instead of the short kind. They are already on the farm of Holestain, and it is thought that they may thrive on the high grounds of this parish. They carry a much greater quantity of wool than the short kind. Butter is reckoned preferable to oil for mixing with the tar used in smearing. This is the opinion of the English manufacturers, who have got the Holestain wool these few years past. The sheep of a bluish colour are supposed to have the worst kind of wool. The wool at Holestain farm was sold, within these few years, at 3s. and 3s. 6d. the stone. In summer 1790, after the sheep were washed



washed, it sold at 8s. the stone. The number of sheep is about 10,500. Several districts are remarkable for producing mutton and beef of the best quality. There are 188 horses, the most of which are employed in agriculture, which has been making rapid improvement of late years. Within these few years, many acres have been employed in raising potatoes and barley; a few in turnip, wheat, and rye-grass; but by far the greatest number is sown with oats. The parish for several years past, not only has supplied its inhabitants with provisions, but exported many hundred stones of oat-meal and barley to the mining Company's stores at Wanlockhead and Leadhills, and some to Sanquhar and the West country. Many scores of lambs are sent annually to the fairs at Langholm, Lockerby, Lanark, &c. and some lambs and fat sheep to Edinburgh: also a great number of black cattle of various ages and sizes to England. When the season is favourable, seed-time begins here about the middle of March, and bear or bigg, (a kind of grain with four rows on each head,) is sown from the beginning to the 20th of May. In a good season, harvest sometimes begins on the 20th of August. In 1782 and 1783, plenty of meal was to be got here for money. The highest price was 2s. 6d. the stone. The quantity and quality of the ground in this parish, will appear from the following statement.

|                      | <i>Acres.</i> | <i>Roods.</i> | <i>Poles.</i> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Arable and Infield - | 1374          | 1             | 14            |
| Outfield - - -       | 1776          | 3             | 8             |
| Meadow - - -         | 271           | 2             | 30            |
| Pasture - - -        | 10712         | 2             | 20            |
| Woods - - -          | 365           | 2             | 2             |
| Moss - - -           | 15            | 0             | 15            |
| Houses and Yards -   | 13            | 0             | 18            |
| <hr/>                |               |               |               |
| Total                | 14529         | 0             | 27            |

The



The rental is about L. 1754 Sterling, exclusive of the *grassums*, that is, sums paid at the granting of new leases. Almost the whole parish belongs to the Duke of Queensberry.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend is L. 700 Scots, 3 chalders of victual,  $\frac{1}{2}$  meal, the other bear, L. 40 Scots for communion-elements, and 21 acres of a glebe. The Duke of Queensberry is patron. The manse was built in 1763. The church was repaired in 1785.—There is one school with a salary of L. 100 Scots, but no school-house nor dwelling-house. There is another school for teaching English, writing, and arithmetic, to which Mr Thomas Tod, once minister of this parish, mortified 1000 merks Scots; the interest of this sum, and of L. 14 Sterling that had been saved during vacancies, make the whole of the salary. The kirk-session elect the teacher, according to Mr Tod's deed of settlement. There are several other teachers employed in different places of the parish. There may be 35 scholars at an average throughout the year at the parish school.—On the poor's roll there are generally between 25 and 30 persons. Besides occasional assistance is given to families in distress. Few of the poor beg except within the bounds of the parish. The poor are provided for by the Sunday collections, by the interest of 1000 merks Scots, mortified by the late Mr Tod, and by L. 11 : 1 : 5 Sterling, mortified by General Douglas, long paid on that footing; but the bond being amissing, it has, for some time past, been paid as an allowance, from the Duke of Queensberry, together with 25 stone of meal yearly. Besides, there is L. 106, 12 s. at 4 *per cent.* interest. So that the funds for the support of the poor amount to about L. 40 a year, exclusive of occasional legacies.

*Prices*



*Prices and Wages.*—The common field lambs, sold formerly at L. 2, 10 s. the score, and sometimes lower, are now sold from L. 3, 10 s. to L. 5. Fat ones are risen from 4 s. 6 d. and 5 s. to 7 s. 8 s. or 9 s. each. Hens from 4 d. to 8 d. Butter from 5 d. to 6 d. the lb. Cheese made of cow-milk from 3 s. 4 d. to 4 s. 6 d. and 5 s. the stone; ewe-milk cheese from 5 s. to 7 s. the stone. Last spring, barley was 3 s. the Nithsdale peck, best oats 2 s. 6 d. bear 2 s. 6 d. But in the month of August, oat-meal that had been 19 d. and 20 d. in the spring, rose to 2 s. 3 d. the stone, and corn and other grain in proportion. Labourer's wages have lately been raised from 6 d. to 9 d. and 10 d. a-day; and the Nithsdale mason from 10 d. and 1 s. to 14 d. and 16 d. The wages of servants employed in husbandry are lately advanced from about 2 guineas a-year to L. 2, 15 s. or L. 3, and sometimes more.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The air, in general, is dry and healthy. In summer, there is sometimes a considerable quantity of salmon caught, and sold for 2 d. and sometimes for 3 d. the lb. The inhabitants, in general, are hospitable, honest, sober, and industrious. They are of the middle size. A great number of the lower classes are employed in spinning yarn of coarse wool for carpets, which is mostly sold for ready money, and carried to Kilmarnock, and of late to Kendal. The coarse wool has been rising for some years past from 3 s. to 6 s. the stone, and the fine in proportion. The price of cattle and horses, as well as sheep, is greatly raised.—Some of the inhabitants have enlisted in the army. When the late Duke of Queensberry raised a regiment for the Holland service, a considerable number enlisted here, and in the neighbourhood. Several of the natives have gone abroad likewise in the mercantile line, and some



of them have been very successful in the West Indies. The people, in general, live comfortably. Some of the principal farmers and storemasters are in affluent circumstances, and live in a genteel manner.—The rent of cot-houses is from 10s. to 20s. a-year. Farmers, tradesmen, labourers, and servants, are much better lodged than 20 or 30 years ago. The removal of the burden of hay and corn labour, coal carriage, the payment of fowls and other servitudes, would meliorate the condition of some of the farmers. A moderate advance of yearly rent, instead of high grassums, (which take away the money that would enable the farmers to improve their ground), would have the same effect. Were the tax on horses taken off, it would tend to meliorate, in some degree, the condition of the clergy. They must consider themselves aggrieved in being subjected to pay a tax for horses only employed in labouring their glebes, and in carrying them to discharge the offices of their profession. They plead an exemption, because the law allows them a horse in landward parishes; because glebes, by act of parliament, before the Union, were free from taxation, and because every privilege belonging to the Church of Scotland before the Union, was expressly stipulated to be continued.—There are 9 houses, where whisky, porter, and ale are sold by licence. The morals of the people will, probably, be hurt by drinking more spirituous liquors since the malt-duty was raised so high; and little malt is made in this country in comparison of what was made formerly.—The state of the roads is but indifferent. The statute-labour is commuted. A road from the village of Durisdeer would connect the Wallpath road with the new turnpike to Sanquhar and the west country, and would be of very great service to all the inhabitants of Carron water for the article of coals. A bridge over Nith, even though it were constructed of timber, would be of material advantage;  
and



and it might be easily erected, below Auchenbreath, where the river is confined on each side by solid rock. There are 3 mills, and several old ruins of towers, forts and chapels.—In September 1786, great devastation was made among the trees at Drumlanrig by an uncommonly high wind.—On the Morton side of Carron there are the Enoch Lins, a romantic natural cave.

NUM.



NUMBER LXI.

PARISH OF TORPHICHEN,

(COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES PATON.*

*Name, Situation, Surface, Minerals, &c.*

**T**ORPHICHEN is said to signify 'ten hills;' a range of hills having so many particular tops being immediately in the vicinity of the village of Torphichen. The parish is situated in the presbytery of Linlithgow, and Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, about 17 miles W. of Edinburgh, in latitude  $55^{\circ} 55'$ , about 9 miles in length from E. to W. and its average breadth about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . It is bounded on the S. partly by the parish of Bathgate, and partly by Shotts; on the W. partly by Shotts and New Monkland; on the N. by Slamannan and Muiravenfide; and on the E. by Linlithgow. The parish is hilly in general, but particularly so at the E. end, where the hill called Cairn Naple is situated, the height of which above the level of the sea is  $1498\frac{1}{4}$  feet. The parish may be reduced into two districts; the E. end, extending about 4 miles, is in most parts very fertile, except the hilly parts. The west end is what is commonly called moor-land. The air, in general, is moister than farther east the county, but



does not appear to be unhealthy, nor is there any distemper that may be called endemic. There is one spring strongly impregnated with iron, and may therefore be useful as a Tonic; it is about a mile west from the village of Torphichen, and is said to have been much frequented about 40 or 50 years ago. There is a loch about a mile to the N. E. of the village of Torphichen, about a mile, or rather more, in circumference, which affords pike, perch and eel. There is a considerable quantity of freestone, and very durable for building, and plenty of what is commonly called whinstone, both made use of for building houses and fences. Coal is very plenty; a coal-mine has been wrought on the wester declivity of Cairn Napple for a considerable time, but is only made use of by the proprietor for burning his lime, which is in the neighbouring parish of Linlithgow; about 2 miles farther west, on the farm of Killicanty, a coal-mine was wrought for a very long period, till within about 20 years past, and might still be wrought if there was encouragement. In this farm, too, there is iron-stone, 2 seams of it having appeared on cutting into a hill for the purpose of levelling a road; they are about 18 inches asunder, and each about 5 inches thick, and of a good quality.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 1295. Excepting that the village of Torphichen is considerably increased, it is probable, that the rest of the parish was more populous even a century ago than it is at present. The present amount is 1069. Deaths, births and marriages, since 1763 stand thus:

Years.



| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Deaths.</i> | <i>Births.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1763          | 13             | 27             | 7                 |
| 1770          | 14             | 32             | 15                |
| 1780          | 8              | 16             | 11                |
| 1790          | 18             | 28             | 12                |

There are 6 smiths, 9 tailors, 15 weavers, 26 masons and wrights, 1 surgeon, 156 Seceders. Very few reach the age of 80; one man, aged upwards of 80, a farmer, and capable of going about business, has been 4 times married, and has had 26 children; there is another man of middle age, or rather more, has had 15 children by one woman, who is still alive, and had a child within a few months ago, and the whole 15 children are alive.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Land rents at from 7 s. to 30 s. the acre. There are 62 or 63 ploughgates of land in the parish, each ploughgate not less than 70 acres. Some farmers have one or two ploughgates; two or three about three; and one five. The roads in the parish are upheld by each ploughgate of land being assessed in 12 days work of a single horse cart, and a man, or six days work of a double horse cart, with a man. The above work may likewise, in the option of the trustees or overseers, be converted into money, at the ordinary rate of labour, which commutation is at present stated at 12 s. Sterling the ploughgate; a sum by no means adequate to the work.—There is a distillery in the village of Torphichen, where about 2000 bolls of barley are yearly distilled, and upon the grain are fed about 40 head of cattle, that will weigh at an average 40 stone each. Few sheep are kept; the grounds are mostly grazed with black cattle. The parish produces wheat, barley, oats, peas; the former in the easter half of the parish only, and of late the quantity sown yearly is increasing; the culture of peas is rather declining.



clining. There is a very considerable quantity of planting, consisting of oak, ash, elm, birch, beech and fir, the latter in very large quantities; of the other there are some very fine trees, both for beauty and value. There is a poplar, the dimensions of which were taken about the year 1788, when it was somewhat more than 80 feet high, and its circumference within two feet of the ground, 5 feet 11 inches. Planting is yearly going on, both for shelter and beauty. The most part of the parish is inclosed, and the farmers are so sensible of the advantages resulting therefrom, that a piece of uninclosed land is not easy to be let. There are about 30 bolls of wheat sown yearly, 80 of barley, about 80 acres of artificial grasses, and turnip is beginning to be attended to. Each family in general plants as many potatoes as may serve for its own use. The same may be said of flax. It is supposed that about two thirds of the parish are arable, and that the parish supplies itself with provisions, and about a third more. Seed-time, in general, for oats, is from the 1st of March to the middle of April, and from the 1st to the middle of May for barley. Harvest from 1st September to the middle of October. The parish has abundance of fuel and water, for the encouragement of the manufacturer, with the additional encouragement of the Cleugh turnpike road. There are 3 oat and barley mills, and 2 lint-mills.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The living is, great teind, L. 413 : 3 : 4 Scots, small teind L. 137 : 0 : 6 Scots, 20 bolls 2 firlots  $3\frac{1}{4}$  pecks meal, 11 bolls  $3\frac{3}{4}$  pecks bear. The vicarage teind, 7 stone 2 lb. butter. Lord Torphichen is patron. The manse was built in 1765. There are 36 landholders.—The poor are relieved by the interest of L. 200, mortcloth.



mortcloth-dues, &c. and the weekly collections. At an average there are 10 pensioners.

*Wages.*—A man servant employed in husbandry, living in the family, receives as wages L. 7 a-year. A woman servant, living in the family, L. 3 : A man servant that lives in a cottage receives the foresaid wages, and 2 pecks of meal, and 6 d. a-week, which is reckoned much the same expence as living in the house. A day-labourer's wages are 1 s. without victuals, and 6 d. with victuals.

*Antiquities, &c.*—A little to the N. E. of the village of Torphichen, is the hospital or preceptory of Torphichen, the principal residence of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. There is only the choir of the church remaining, all the rest of the houses being razed, except a square tower; there are two wings, one on the S. and the other on the N. side, and evident marks of other two on the E. and W.; on the inside are three beautiful Gothic arched domes, the middle one supported by some Gothic columns; the windows are large and Gothic; in the S. wing is a nitch for laying the dead during funeral service, and likewise the font for baptism. It was founded by King David I. There have been several preceptors of Torphichen who have been considerable men, the first mentioned is one Archibaldus magister de Torphichen, who is witness to a charter of Alexander, Great Steward of Scotland in 1252. Sir Henry Livingston was likewise preceptor, who, dying in 1463, was succeeded by Sir William Knows, who, in the same year, was made Lord High Treasurer. He died at the unfortunate battle of Flouden in 1513, and was succeeded by Sir George Dundas, who was a person of great learning, and a school-fellow of  
Hector



Hector Boethius at Paris. The last preceptor was Sir James Sandilands, second son to Sir James Sandilands of Calder. Sandilands, at the Reformation, resigned all the lands of the Johanites in Scotland into Queen Mary's hands, who feued them out again to him for 10,000 crowns, and the yearly annuity of 500 merks. She also erected all the foresaid lands into a temporal lordship, in favour of him and his heirs, in 1563. The Templars cross was ordered to be put upon all houses that were feued out by these Knights, and to this day is seen a great number of crosses upon the top of several buildings in Edinburgh, Leith, Linlithgow, Stirling, &c. which formerly belonged to them. This preceptory was a place of refuge. There is a stone in the church-yard as a centre, and others at a mile distance, E. W. S. and N. with a St John's cross on them: They stand about 2 feet out of the ground.—About a mile to the E. of Torphichen, is an altar of 4 great unpolished whin stones, on which, according to tradition, sacrifices were anciently performed: By others, it has been called the temple of Terminus, although it may rather have been a druidical place of worship.—About a mile to the N. W. of this altar, is the hill Boudane, upon which there are evident marks of a military station: The form of the camp is oblong and round; it is marked in Armstrong's map of the 3 Lothians as a Danish camp; the tradition of the country is, that it is Roman.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people of this parish are industrious, the most of the labouring men wish to take a fee in winter, but in summer to remain free, when they employ themselves in mowing hay, driving cattle to England, and reaping in harvest. This is complained of by  
the



the farmers. Servant women are difficult to be had too in summer, as they make nearly as much in harvest as their half year's wages would be, and can do very well the rest of the time by spinning flax; indeed there are many women who do very well the year round, by spinning flax, with their harvest wages. A married man, with common prudence, is at no difficulty to maintain and bring up his children, if he keeps his health, along with the industry of the mother. The commonalty live on the produce of the country, or what is called milk and meal, with a large proportion of potatoes in winter. The dress is greatly more expensive than it was 30 or 40 years ago.

N U M.



## NUMBER LXII.

## PARISH OF LOGGIE EASTER,

(COUNTIES OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN ROSS.**Name, Situation, Soil, River, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Loggie Easter is so called, because there was another of the same name some time ago in the western division of Ross. The name *Loggie*, (in the Gaelic *Lagie*) signifies “a hollow.” The church formerly stood in a beautiful hollow, surrounded by braes or hillocks. It is nearly 7 miles in length, and in some places more than 2 in breadth; bounded on the S. by the parish of Kilmuire, on the E. by Nigg; on the N. E. by Fearn; on the N. by Tain; and on the W. by Eddertown and Kilmuire. This parish lies partly in the county of Ross, and partly in the county of Cromarty, within 4 miles of the town of Tain, which is the presbytery-seat, and sometimes the seat of the Synod of Ross. The diseases to which the inhabitants are most subject, are the cough, asthma and rheumatism. Sometimes fevers get in among them. The small-pox raged here twice lately, and carried off a considerable number of children. Some of the inhabitants, from a religious prejudice, were not reconciled to the practice of inoculation;



lation; whilst others were prudent enough to take the benefit of this successful mean to save their children. There have been, and are still several instances of longevity here. —The soil, in some places, is a strong deep clay, in others a rich black mould, and in others a light earth on an open bottom. There is a considerable part of the parish not in culture, which is capable of being turned to good account. There was, however, something done of late in this way. The proprietors give some encouragement towards it, by building houses on waste ground, and giving their possessors the benefit of what ground they can break up for seven years, before they pay any rent. Some likewise give each of them, a spade, mattock and seed for once to sow what ground they yearly bring into culture. There is a good deal of plantations in a thriving condition. The only natural wood is on the ground of Ulladale. The only river in this parish goes generally by the name of Abhor, or “river.” It has 2 bridges upon it. There are 3 burns or rivulets, one of which, with heavy rains, overflows its banks, and sometimes, particularly in seed-time, considerably damages the fields on each side of it, washing away the loose earth and seed within its reach, and spoiling the grass. We have some of the finest springs in different parts of the parish. One of them near the old church was once superstitiously thought to foretel the future recovery or death of any sick person, for whom they fetched some of its water, by changing its colour if he was to die, and continuing the same if he was to recover.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster’s report, the numbers were 850. The population has been greatly on the increase for 10 years back. The last incumbent had no more than 600 examinable persons on his list; whereas, by



an exact list taken by the present incumbent 2 years ago, there were 900 persons in the parish, from 8 years old and upward. In the summer of 1782, whole families came down from the Highlands, on account of the dearth, and settled here for the benefit of daily labour, and having the fuel so near them. The encouragement given for turning waste ground into culture, has likewise increased the population. The monopoly of farms, or turning some small ones into a large one, takes place here. Gentlemen proprietors have very considerable farms under their own management; and the farmers wish to have each as much land as he can. This, however, does not affect the population. There are 258 houses possessed; 2 residing heritors, a gentleman captain on half pay, the minister, schoolmaster and kirk-officer, 49 farmers, 33 out-servants, 32 cottagers, 15 weavers, 11 shoemakers, 2 masons, a brick-maker, a cartwright, a plough-wright, 3 smiths, 3 coopers, 3 millers, 3 pedlars, 2 turners, 3 public-house keepers, 8 tailors, 2 house carpenters, 2 gardeners. The remaining 78 houses are possessed by day-labourers, poor widows and maidens who set up by themselves, sometimes only 1, generally 2 of them in a house. All are of the Established Church, except a few Seceders. The number of births for 10 years back, reckoning at an average, is 32 yearly; of marriages 8.

*Agriculture.*—The valued rent is L. 1514 Scots. The real rent may be about L. 1100 Sterling. Some of the proprietors have converted customs and services into money, and there are no services at present from the tenants to their masters, except that some tenants, by their leases, are obliged yearly to cut some peats for them, and carry these home, and to give them 3 days assistance in harvest. The cottagers who reside near their masters house, are obliged to attend



attend and assist in carrying their corn-stacks from the barn-yard into the barn. The servitudes which disgraced human nature, by rendering tenants almost slaves, are, in this parish, done away; and I hope the day is fast approaching, when proprietors will find it proper to have their rents paid in victual and money only. The greatest farmers pay about L. 60 Sterling yearly rent in victual and money, and some of them not L. 5 Sterling. The principal crops are oats, barley, and potatoes, which last are the support of many poor families, with some little meal, for more than half of the year. There grows also a considerable quantity of peas, and rye. The proprietors, and even farmers, now sow clover and rye-grass, and find this the most profitable way of resting their lands, after which they get rich crops. Of every kind of grain, a far greater quantity grows than serves the inhabitants. A considerable quantity of barley is used in malting, for ale, and to serve the distilleries around us in other parishes, there being none licensed here. Oats, barley, and oat-meal are sold here to persons at a distance, and sometimes sent out of the country.—There are about 600 horses, nearly twice the number of oxen, and a considerable quantity of milk cows. The horses are generally small, but even the farmers have begun the custom of supplying themselves with those of a large size from Moray; and this betters the breed of horses here. The number of sheep is not so considerable now as formerly, the gentlemen in this parish rather cultivating milk cows, and the tenants not having the same range for their sheep, by the improvement of waste ground.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—About 24 years ago, the present neat little church was built on an eminence, at some distance from the hollow where it formerly stood.

Twelve



Twelve years ago, during the vacancy Sir John Ross of Balnagown, with consent and approbation of heritors and presbytery, took the manse and glebe to himself, and built a neat manse for the present incumbent. The former glebe measured 9 acres of very good land, in lieu of which, by the arbitration of proper judges, he gave 26 acres of arable and waste ground, around the hill on which the manse was built. On this hill, there is a most charming prospect to the south of the town and bay of Cromarty, and to the east, of the parishes of Nigg and Fearn, and a part of the parish of Tarbat. From the month of May, to that of October, such a scene of corn fields, over so very considerable a space of ground, strikes the delighted beholder. The stipend is 5 chalders of barley, L. 22 : 15 : 6 Sterling, and a right to the small tithes in kind. Kenneth Mackenzie, Esq; is patron.—The salary of the parish schoolmaster is only 100 merks. By this salary and school-dues, which are far from being extraordinary, with his salary and perquisites as session-clerk, and some laudable shifts, this man decently supports himself and family. There is a school in the heights of the parish of Kilmuire, the salary of which yearly is paid by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, which lies very contiguous to the heights of this parish, and at which several children from it are taught.—The number of persons on the poor's roll is generally between 60 and 70. The greatest part of them can do something towards their own support; such of them as are able, go about once a-year and collect something in this way. They receive alms frequently from the inhabitants at their own houses, and the money collected at church, (except a little given in the way of salary to the session-clerk, catechist, and kirk-officer), goes all to their use. They have also the fines raised from such as commit fornication. There are likewise



likewise established funds from several mortifications, for the behoof of this and of some neighbouring parishes, from which this parish has a fund of L. 24 Sterling. Besides, there is a fund of L. 18 Sterling belonging to the session, the interest of which is yearly given to the poor. Collections at church for 10 years back are, at an average, L. 14 Sterling yearly.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The common people generally speak the Gaelic language; many of them understand something of the English, and speak it through the Gaelic accent and idiom.—The inhabitants are in general of a pious, sober, and industrious disposition, well acquainted with the principles of religion, and regular in their practice. This does not say that there are no exceptions. There has not been one of them tried for theft or murder since the present incumbent came among them. Two instances of suicide have indeed occurred during that time.—The necessities of life are easily acquired here; its conveniencies and superfluities fall to the share of a very few persons. This parish abounds in the extremities of it, and in some parts through its very middle, with moss and turf ground; some of the neighbouring parishes cut their peats and turf in it, and carry them to their own homes. To cut, dry, and carry these home, is the labour of many during the greatest part of the summer, and the first month of harvest. Peats, turf, and brushwood, are in general the fuel here. Gentlemen indeed buy and use coals.—The out servants have a house from their master, 6 bolls of meal for their meat, and 3 for their wages in the year; with 2 pairs of shoes, and the use of as much land to plant potatoes, and sow barley on, as they can provide manure for. The produce of potatoes is all their own. They give half seed for the barley



ley land, and receive half of the increase. All these things, with some perquisites they expect and get, will be worth about L. 12 Sterling a-year. So that an out servant, with his wife, (if she be sober and industrious), and 5 or perhaps 6 children, can live easily, though frugally, and may be justly more void of care than his master. The hire of a day-labourer here is from 6d. to 8d. a-day; but they generally deal in what they call flump work, or work by the piece. The women, besides out labour, deal much in spinning hemp, flax and lint, of which they can make each 3d. a-day; and some maidens choose rather to keep house by themselves, (as a hut can easily be built, and fuel procured), and live in this way rather than go to service. They reap in harvest, for which they have each a boll and 2 pecks, for about 6 weeks labour, and spin throughout the rest of the year. The hire of a man for the harvest work is a boll and a half, with one diet a-day.—There is a ridge of small hills in the middle of the parish, of no great height. On the top of one of these once stood a gallows, which part was surrounded by a ditch, as may be still seen. Not far from it, near the very end of the ridge, is a pond of water, narrow in circumference, but very deep, and not easily fathomed. This pond goes by the name of *Póll a bbaidh*, or the ‘Pool for drowning.’ About 40 years ago, died a man, who witnessed the last execution in this pool, that of a woman for child-murder. Hence it appears, that when heritable jurisdiction took place, this was one of those places in this county appointed for the execution of condemned criminals.—On each side of the burn or rivulet, called Aultran, Albanick, or Scotburn, are several cairns. The tradition respecting them is, that there was a battle fought in this place by the Scots and Danes, which the Scots gained; that this water received its name from that circumstance; and



and that under these heaps of stones they buried their slain. A part of one of these heaps was removed, the ground under it dug up, and human bones and an axe were found there. In several places are tumuli, some of which clearly appear to be the works of art. There are likewise small inclosures of turf artificially made, some of them square, and some circular. Two always appear near each other; they are called in the Gaelic, *Reitagan*. *Reite* or *Reitachas*, in that language, signifies 'agreement;' and the tradition respecting them is, that in former times, parties at variance met there with their friends for settling of differences.

NUM.



## NUMBER LXIII.

## PARISH OF ERROL,

## (COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By Mr WILLIAM HERDMAN, Assistant to the Minister of  
Errol.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil and Climate.*

THE name of Errol seems to be of great antiquity. The first mention made of it is about the year 980, when the country was freed from an invasion of the Danes. One Hay and his two sons, who were ploughing in the field, stopped their countrymen in their flight, caused them return to the charge, and, by a furious onset, subdued and rout their enemies. For this signal service, the family was ennobled under the title of Earl of Errol, and obtained a portion of land in the Carse of Gowrie, where Errol is situated. It continued in the possession of their descendants till the middle of the last century, and has since belonged to several proprietors. No account is given of the origin of the name. The parish lies within the Synod and presbytery of Perth. It is bounded by the river Tay on the S.; by the parish of Inchtute on the E.; by Kinnaird, Kilspindie, and Kinfawns, on the N.; and by St



St Madois on the W. It is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, and nearly 3 in breadth; perfectly regular and compact, and includes a large and a fair portion of the carse of Gowrie. From the one end to the other, it stretches over almost the whole breadth of the carse, from its commencement at the foot of the hills, to its termination by the Tay; and though it is in general level ground, there are several eminences in it, which add much to the beauty of the figure. The soil is of excellent quality. It varies according to the situation. The low land, which may comprehend two-thirds of the parish, is in general a strong clay; the rising ground, and particularly that in the neighbourhood of the village of Errol, is a rich black earth; and towards the W. end of the parish, the soil is of a lighter nature, inclining to a brown sand. The whole country is naturally wet, and it is the draining and improving of it within these last 50 years, which has contributed so much to its value and fertility. The climate, of course, could not be considered as the most desirable. It was damp, and attended with such diseases as are common in a heavy atmosphere. Some time ago, the ague was a very prevalent complaint; it has now in a great measure disappeared; but a disease still more fatal seems to have come in its stead. Consumptions, which formerly were rare, have of late been very frequent, although, from the state of cultivation, it should be thought that the air is much more salubrious. But what is remarkable in the carse of Gowrie, the people who reside in the higher parts of the country are not found to be the most healthy. The inhabitants of the low and marshy grounds, indeed, may be more liable to rheumatic complaints, but they have been often observed to enjoy the longest course of life.



*Agriculture.*—The mode of cultivation has undergone an entire revolution within these 40 years, and, as this parish is an important part of the carse of Gowrie, that article is the more deserving of notice. The land was formerly divided into what was called infield and outfield, there being about two-thirds of the former, and a third of the latter. The infield, which generally lay next the village or tenement, got the dung produced on the farm, and was kept under a constant rotation of peas, wheat, barley and oats; lime, fallow and artificial grasses, were almost unknown. The outfield, after remaining 6 years in its natural state, was for 3 crops turned into oats, having been previously thrown up into dikes as a preparation for them; after which it was allowed to revert to its former condition. The produce of every kind was very indifferent. In those days of sterility, the horses were supported in summer upon thistles, which were to be had in abundance, both in the laboured and uncultivated grounds, and which it was the employment of the servants to collect. The land is at present in a high state of improvement. As almost the whole parish is capable of bearing the same grain, the farmers, like impartial stewards, direct their attention equally to every part of their charge, and divide their possessions into 6 equal portions, which they employ for fallow, wheat, peas, barley, grass and oats. The fallow which succeeds the oats or wheat, is turned over in the end of autumn, again in the beginning of summer, and commonly ploughed and harrowed other 3 times in the course of it. It is always enriched with dung, and frequently with lime, which are laid on it before it gets the last furrow in August.—The wheat upon the fallow is sown from the 8th to the last of September. As this is the principal crop which recompences the toil and expense



pense of the farmer, it is perpetually encroaching on the grounds belonging to the other kinds of grain. Some tenants who are only bringing their lands into order, or who, it is feared, are bound down by their leases, adhere strictly to the sixths into which they have divided them, and convert no more into wheat than they had under fallow; others, whose possessions have been longer in a state of improvement, borrow considerably from the barley and oats, turning fields of peas and of grass into wheat as they judge best; while some very good farmers plough up the whole of what was grass, and lay the third of their grounds under wheat. But this extensive cropping is liable to be interrupted, and is sometimes entirely prevented, except on the fallow, by the heavy rains which fall in autumn.

The seed-time is finished in general by the middle of October, and the harvest commences about the 24th of August. According to the soil, strong beans, grey peas and beans, or early peas are raised; the grain is sown as early in March as the season will permit, the oats immediately after; and the harvest takes place in September. The land for barley, that it may be fully pulverized, is thoroughly ploughed at 3 different periods, November, April and May, and the crop is ready for reaping at the same time with the oats. Drilled beans, potatoes and turnip, are sometimes put in place of peas, and found to be an excellent preparation for the barley.—If the quantity reaped from each kind of grain in the parish should not seem remarkable, the quality yields an abundant compensation. The return obtained in general from wheat may be 10 bolls the acre on the fallow, and 8 after grass. The average produce of peas and beans is 8 bolls, which, at the price they usually bring, is a poor crop; but the benefit derived to the land, and the maintenance they furnish



furnish for the horses, are the reasons for continuing them. Oats may be estimated at 11 bolls, and often several more; but as they do not commonly exceed 14 s. in value, wheat is found to be more profitable, and seldom fails to be substituted in their room, when the exchange can safely be admitted. Barley is a precarious crop on strong clay ground, and cannot be reckoned upon for more than 8 bolls, though 10 and upwards are frequently obtained. But the produce of all the above articles is subject to much vicissitude, though the return mentioned is the highest that can in general be expected. No part of the kingdom perhaps excels this for crops of grass. They are raised after barley or oats, and even sometimes after wheat; and though the increase depends a good deal upon the season, 3 luxuriant cuttings are frequently had between the beginning of June and the end of September. A considerable quantity of fruit is likewise produced in this district. Formerly there were large orchards planted at many of the farm tenements, some of them consisting of several acres; and though they are in some measure become barren through age, and the quality is by no means fine, they annually bring money into the parish.

The rearing of live stock, though generally practised, is not carried to great extent. The soil is ill adapted for pasture, and too valuable to be left for that purpose. There are just as many animals maintained, as consume the fodder produced on the farm. The cattle are kept in straw-yards with open shades, where they thrive very well, and are sold when 3 years old, from L. 4 to L. 6 or L. 8 each. The milk-cows, and work horses only, have liberty to feed on a part of the sown grass for a little time in summer, and the other stock are sent to graze in the neighbourhood, or fold, excepting as many as can be supported  
in



In the yard upon clover. Till of late, the breeding of horses was rather neglected, and large sums were laid out in purchasing them; but the farmers are now become more attentive to their interest in that respect, and there is a prospect that they will henceforth provide for themselves. But the carse tenants who can go much length in bringing up young beasts of whatever kind, are those who have grafs possessions somewhere else, to which they can remove them at the proper season. The parish may contain 7000 acres. The whole of it is arable, and at present under cultivation in the manner already mentioned, excepting some inclosures of firs, which, though the trees are scarcely come to half their size, the proprietors are fast clearing off. From the different methods pursued by the farmers for the productions of grain, it cannot be exactly determined what quantity of land is employed in each species; but it is conjectured that there is a fifth of the whole parish in wheat, nearly a sixth in grafs, and as much in peas, something more in fallow, potatoes, flax, and plantations, less than a sixth in oats, and about the same in barley.—Land is rented at very different prices. Fifteen years ago, it was about 15 s. the acre. It rose immediately after to L. 1, 5 s. and was then judged so high, that the tenant obtained his possession for life. It has of late been letting for L. 2, and some of it even for L. 2, 10 s.; but rents of this last kind are given chiefly for lands about the village, where trades people pay rather for the convenience than value of ground. The valued rent of the parish is nearly L. 17,000 Scots, and the real rental is said to be about L. 8000 Sterling. The extent of farms is variable, but in general from 100 to 200 acres. The tillage is performed by a plough, with an iron head and mettle mould board, drawn by 2 horses, which one person manages.

For



For every 30 acres in the farm, one such plough is commonly judged necessary. As the labour is severe, strong horses are employed, which, for the most part, cost more than L. 21 a-piece. Four or 5 cows are kept on a possession of 100 acres.

*Wages, Prices, &c.*—An ordinary ploughman gets from L. 7, 7 s. to L. 9, 9 s. a-year; if married, he pays L. 1 for his house and garden, and L. 1, 10 s. for the maintenance of a cow throughout the year. There are many of both descriptions in the parish; and though the cottager is not so likely to change his residence, the unmarried person is as much desired for a servant. The wages of a female servant are from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3, and the whole of her employment is in the house, except in seed-time and harvest. Most of the male servants have their lodging apart from the dwelling of the farmer; and for victuals, which they prepare themselves, receive 2 pecks of oat-meal a-week, and a certain measure of milk for each diet. When labourers are hired by the day, they have 10 d. in winter, and 1 s. in summer, for meat and wages. Persons from the neighbouring boroughs are engaged for cutting down the crop; the men get from L. 1, 3 s. to L. 1, 5 s. and the women from 15 s. to L. 1, besides provisions, which they generally earn in 3 weeks. A considerable expense, besides, was annually incurred for a number of hands for threshing out the grain, which service is chiefly done now by machines for the purpose. Threshing-mills were introduced into the parish about 3 years ago, are multiplying every season, and considered a capital improvement in husbandry.—The whole costs attending cultivation, exclusive of rent, and also of lime, which is frequently demanded, are said to be L. 2 an acre. The price of provisions is much the same



same as in the neighbouring parishes.—This parish produces much grain, besides what is necessary for its own consumption. A good deal is sent every year to Perth and Dundee, and large quantities are exported by sea. It is carried coastwise to Leith, and several other ports on the Forth, and up the canal to Glasgow. Winter and spring are the seasons of exportation, the farmer being then obliged to dispose of his grain. The prices are regulated by the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets, being commonly somewhat lower, though the grain is of the best quality, and the measures used here exceed those at Leith, by at least 5 *per cent.*, which will defray the charge of transportation. There are two places at which all the grain exported from the parish is shipped off; the shore of Errol, a little below the village, and of Powgavie, on the E. point of the parish, where it joins with Inchtute. The chief traffic carried on, is that of grain in winter, and lime and coals in summer. Lime is brought from different parts of Fife, and sold for 17 d. the boll, wheat measure, and also from the north of England, of a superior quality, which is to be had for 2 s. 4 d. barley measure. Coal, which is the fuel used in the parish, costs about 3 s. 9 d. the boll, weighing 52 stones. There may be 140 or 150 chaldrons of coals delivered at the shore of Errol in a season, and 120 of lime. The quantity of grain exported may be nearly the same with that of the lime delivered. A correspondence is likewise kept up with London, and some other places, whence porter, wine, sugar and wood, are frequently received. The proprietor of Errol has a duty upon the articles shipped off, or landed at the harbour on his estate. A passage-boat goes regularly between it and the shore of Newburgh every tide.

*Population.*



*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 2229. At present (1791) the numbers are 2685; of these 1857 live in the country, and 828 in the village. There are 1301 males, and 1384 females. Computing from 21 years, the time of majority, there may be 472 unmarried, 846 married, and 164 widowers or widows. Of all descriptions, there are

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Under 10 years of age, | 633  |
| Between 10 and 20,     | 536  |
| Between 20 and 50,     | 1117 |
| Between 50 and 70,     | 362  |
| Above 70,              | 37   |

The annual average of births for the last 6 years is 77; of marriages 32, and of burials 40. There are 18 heritors belonging to the parish; but the most of it is in the hands of 6 or 7 proprietors, few of whom reside. Almost the whole country is occupied by the farmers. They are expert and industrious in their profession, and prosperous in their circumstances. Little of the servile work on their possessions is performed by them or their families; and beside female, many of them constantly maintain 8 male servants. There are 211 weavers, who for the most part work cloth for sale; but no fine manufacture is carried on. There are 50 wrights, 25 tailors, 21 shoemakers, 14 blacksmiths, 5 masons, 2 brickmakers, 1 bricklayer, 4 bakers, 3 butchers, 2 surgeons, and 1 writer. There are 7 innkeepers in the village, and 10 in other parts of the parish. There are not above 240 Seceders of all denominations. The remaining 2445 belong to the Established Church, who, for numbers and genteel appearance, will not be excelled or equalled by many country congregations in the kingdom.—Their stature is considerably above the ordinary size, and their proportions otherwise well adjusted. In temper



temper and manners, they are gay, cheerful and active. The higher ranks are opulent, and the lower have it in their power, from the great wages they can earn, to purchase the conveniencies of life. They are far removed from sordidness, and are not unsusceptible of generosity, of which they have given proof on several occasions. As the people equal their neighbours in useful, and far surpass them in elegant accomplishments, it is expected that they will be exemplary also in that devout and religious demeanour, which gives every embellishment its true lustre and dignity.

*Church, School, Poor.*—The church was built in 1765. The manse above 60 years ago; has had some inconsiderable repairs since that time, and is still in a tolerable condition. John Allen, Esq; of Errol is patron.—There is only one established school, though, from the inconvenience of sending children to a distance, others are maintained in different quarters. The parish schoolmaster has 200 merks Scots of salary, 1 s. 4 d. on every marriage, 8 d. on every baptism, and 3½ d. on every certificate. He has besides a small fee for doing the business of the kirk-session. The office is judged to be worth L. 50 Sterling a-year.—The poor on the roll at present, besides some who get occasional aid, are 36. The distribution for their support amounts to more than L. 70 a-year. The means for furnishing it are the weekly collections at the church, which just now may be reckoned L. 40; the interest of L. 600, which is a fund belonging to the poor, and the duties arising from marriages and burials. No assessment has for some time been levied from the parish.



*Village.*—The village of Errol is the only place in the parish, in which the number of buildings has lately increased. Its situation is remarkably pleasant. Seated on an eminence, rising by a gradual ascent above the level of the country, the prospect from it is extensive and delightful. But the houses in the village are as paltry as the situation is pleasant. As there is no stone in the neighbourhood, they are mostly built of clay, and huddled together, without much order or regularity. Excepting gentlemens seats, all the old buildings in the parish are of that substance, which, when properly cemented, is reckoned the warmest and most durable of any; and there are some fabrics of it still in tolerable repair, the date of which cannot be ascertained. In forming such edifices, every man is his own mason, raising them by times, and putting on one layer as the other is condensed; and to this cause it is certainly owing that there are so few professional masons in the parish. It is thought that the people have now in some measure lost the art of preparing the materials, and compacting them together, so as to give the clay-houses the solidity they had in past times. They are, however, adopting a plan of building much more agreeable to the eye, and certainly no less useful for accommodation, moulding the mortar into bricks, and with these forming their dwellings. The proprietor having adopted the judicious plan of feuing out many of the old houses, with their yards, several good houses have of late been erected, and the village has increased in population.

*River Tay.*—The country is intersected in different places by small tracts of water, called pows, which move slowly from the N. to the S. side of the carse, and which are collected mostly from the trenches opened for draining the ground.



ground. The Tay, into which they issue, is the only river in the parish. It furnishes excellent salmon. Formerly the market here was well stocked with them, and their price always moderate; but the whole fishings having been let to companies of merchants in Perth, for a number of years the produce has been sent in vessels to London, where the demand for them has almost entirely removed them from the reach of the people, for whose use nature seems to have ordained them. They are still caught in great quantities in the river, but not many immediately opposite to Errol. The Tay, by the constant action of the tide and current, making an impression on a soft bank, and washing away every season a valuable portion of land, the late proprietor of Errol built large stone dikes for the defence of his estate. Besides stretching along the coast, piers were run some length into the river. They have had a considerable effect. A strong crop of reeds grows annually in the mud, over which the tide regularly flows, which help to diminish its influence, and, by their roots, to consolidate the earth; and the bank, which formerly was so yielding, is become a firm beach, covered with young planting, which is of use, both for ornament and protection. But what is profitable by land is hurtful by water. The long piers are supposed to have altered the position of the banks on which the salmon were caught, and they seem to have deserted that part of the coast. There is a popular tradition, that the Tay anciently ran along the foot of the hills, by the N. of this parish; but if ever that was the case, it must have been at a much earlier period than is reported. The change from that course to the present, is supposed to have taken place in the 12th century; but there are charters on record of that date, confirming to the Hays of Errol, and other proprietors in the neighbourhood



neighbourhood, or mentioning their dispoing to religious houses, their right of fishing on the Tay, to which it cannot well be conceived how they had any title, unless the river always held the channel which it now occupies. That some branch of the Tay may have had its direction by the N. of the carse, or rather that there may have been much water in the hollow ground, before the country was drained, is extremely probable; but there is little reason to imagine that the bed of the river has ever undergone any alteration.

*Disadvantages.*—The parish has always had a bad name for roads. In a wet country, and deep soil, the track either of man or beast, when much used, and never repaired, soon becomes unpleasant, if not impassable. The keeping the public ways in a tolerable condition, must have been attended with uncommon difficulty and expense, from the necessity there was of bringing the materials from a distance; but the task which was so arduous, being almost entirely neglected, the roads were in a state of disrepair, which cannot easily be conceived. There is a prospect that this grievance will now be speedily removed. In consequence of an act of Parliament, lately obtained, a great post-road is carrying on from Perth to Dundee, which runs through this parish, and another turnpike is making from that to the shore of Errol, which will facilitate the communication both by land and water. When this important work is accomplished, it is hoped that the statute-labour, which will not be necessary elsewhere, will be applied to the cross-roads, that they also may be put in a tolerable state. The landlords will certainly find, that the money expended in this way will be a valuable improvement to their estates.—Next to bad roads, the chief inconvenience



venience of which the people can complain, is the want of good water. There are few springs in the low grounds, and the small streams which issue from the hills are polluted before they reach the inhabitants of the carse. The country people use the water of the pows, which, in time of drought, is of a stagnating nature, and in rain, is deeply tinged by the clay. The inhabitants of the village dig pit-wells, which, when left open, afford the most nauseous water; and even when inclosed, and built up with a pump, their produce is not of the most pleasant or salutary quality. But this is a disadvantage which it would be very difficult to remove, and which the people must endeavour to support as part of their natural destination.

MUN



## NUMBER LXIV.

## PARISH OF FORDOUN,

(COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER LESLIE.**Name, Situation, Soil, Surface, &c.*

THE ancient name of this parish was *Paddy* Parish, from having been, it is said, for some time the residence, and afterwards the burial-place of St Palladius. *Fordoun* is said by some to signify, in Gaelic, ‘the brow or declivity of a hill.’ The parish is situated in the presbytery of Fordoun, and in the Synod of Angus and Mearns. It is of an oblong form, broadest in the middle. Its greatest length from E. to W. is about 10 English miles; its greatest breadth from S. to N. about 7. It is bounded on the N. by the parish of Strathæen; on the E. by Glenbervie and Arbuthnot; on the S. by Garvock, Laurencekirk, and Marykirk; and on the W. by Fettercairn. The S. side of the parish is very flat and plain, making a part of what is called the *How* of the Mearns, and of that still larger valley, called Strathmore, which is reckoned to reach from Stonehaven to Dumbarton. In this part of the parish, the soil is deep, clayey, and in general fertile. The

north



north side of the parish is hilly and mountainous, the soil light and shallow, and not so fertile as the other. In the plain, the air is moist; towards the hills, dry. The most prevailing diseases are agues and fevers; but, as within these few years much of the stagnated water has been drawn off, and the lands drained, these diseases are not so frequent as formerly. There are several mineral springs, but none of any considerable reputation. They are sometimes drank by those in the neighbourhood, who are afflicted by stomach or gravelish complaints. The most remarkable mountains are the *Grampian* Hills, which bound the parish to the N. and run through the island, from Aberdeen to Dumbarton. They are covered with heath and rock. There are some quarries of freestone, used for building.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster's return the numbers were 1890. In the year 1771 there were about 2400 people in the parish; now (1790,) there are only 2258; of these are about 1158 males, and 1100 females. The annual average of births is from 70 to 80; of deaths from 60 to 70; of marriages from 16 to 20. There are 267 below 7 years of age, and 1991 above that age. There have been some few instances of persons who have reached the age of 90, and 1 or 2 who have exceeded 100. Of the Established Church are 2001; Episcopalians, 106; Seceders, 151. The cause of depopulation seems to be the union of farms. The number of inhabited houses is about 470; 5 persons at an average to each. There are several villages in the parish. That of Auchinblay contains about 100 persons, and there is a weekly fair in it chiefly for cattle, from Michaelmas to Christmas. The village of Kincardine, in the west end of the parish, contains about 70 persons. From this village the  
county



county takes its name, and it was the county town till the reign of James VI. of Scotland, who removed the Courts from Kincardine to Stonehaven, which has continued to be the county town ever since.

*Produce, &c.*—The number of acres in the parish is computed to be 21,885 Scots, or 27,747 English. Not above the half of these are arable, the rest are moors and hills; a few acres are planted with wood, chiefly fir, and some ash and birch. About a third of the arable ground may be in turnip, potatoes, rye-grass and clover, flax and some wheat; the other two thirds in oats, bear, barley and peas. The parish not only supplies itself with provisions, but exports a considerable quantity of corn and meal, and sells a considerable number of cattle, sheep, and some horses. Oats and peas are commonly sown in March, and reaped in October. Bear and barley in the beginning of May, and reaped in September. Turnip is sown in the end of June, and used for feeding cattle through the winter. Property in land sells at 25 or 30 years purchase. Some of the heritors in this parish have of late given leases of 57 years to their tenants, encouragement to inclose their grounds, and to build commodious houses for themselves and their families. Were the same plan universally adopted by landlords, it would tend very much to the comfort of the farmer, and to the improvement of the country. The yearly rent of the best arable grounds is from 15 s. to 20 s. Sterling the acre. Inferior grounds from 3 s. to 10 s. Sterling. A spirit of improvement, and consequently of inclosing, is spreading among the tenants, owing to examples set before them, and the encouragement given them by the respectable gentlemen in the neighbourhood. The fences, on account of the scarcity of stones, are made of earth, with  
furze



furze or thorn hedges. In the years 1782 and 1783, this parish was involved in the same calamity with the rest of the country, and felt the same scarcity. Meal sold at 20 s. Sterling the boll. 57 bolls of meal were given by government for the supply of the most necessitous; 200 bolls were purchased with the poor's money, and several private benefactions were received; which were distributed among householders and others, who were in want.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 7125 Scots; the real rent may be between L. 3000 and L. 4000 Sterling.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, is about L. 100 Sterling. The Crown is patron. The manse was rebuilt in 1779; the church rebuilt in 1788. The number of poor who receive alms is between 20 and 30. The annual Sunday collections, at an average, amount to about L. 30 Sterling. Besides this, there is about L. 200 Sterling lent out, the interest of which is annually applied to the supply of the poor.

*Prices and Wages.*—Beef, veal, mutton, lamb, pork, &c. sell at about 3 d. or 4 d. the lb.; about 30 years ago they sold at about 2 d. A hen now sells at 7 d. and 8 d.; formerly at 4 d. and 5 d. Eggs are now sold at 3 d. the dozen; formerly at 1 d.; butter is sold at 7 d. and 8 d. the lb.; formerly at 4 d. and 5 d. Cheese at 5 s. the stone, formerly at 3 s. or 4 s. The wages of a day-labourer are 10 d. and 1 s.; of carpenters and masons 1 s. 6 d.; of tailors 6 d. and their victuals. The common wages of servants who are maintained in the family are as follows: a ploughman gets L. 6 Sterling a-year, inferior men servants from L. 2 to L. 5 Sterling; female servants from L. 2 to L. 4 Sterling; boys who are employed as herds for cattle, horses or sheep, from



L. 1 to L. 3 Sterling. Many of the common labourers who marry, and have houses, are enabled to support and bring up large families by the wages they receive.

*Antiquities.*—About 3 years ago, when inclosing a field near this place, was discovered an earthen urn with ashes in it, in the centre of 4 large stones, with a flat stone on the top. The urn, when exposed to the air, and touched, mouldered into dust. It was probably a Roman urn, as at about a mile's distance from the place where it was discovered, there are still the vestiges of a Roman camp. The wall and ditch, which surrounded the camp itself, are scarcely discernible in many places, having been taken into the adjacent corn-fields; but the wall and ditch which surrounded the prætorium are very distinct, which shew it to have been an oblong square.—In the west end of this parish at Kincardine, not far from Fettercairn, are the ruins of a castle, said by tradition to have been once a Royal palace, belonging to *Kenneth III.* where he sometimes resided. It is conjectured by some, that he was making a progress from this castle to Fordoun, to worship at the shrine of St Palla-dius, when he was killed by Finella in the manner related by Buchanan.—Not far from Kincardine, and near to the Grampians, is a mount called Green Castle, by some thought to have been the residence of Finella, by others supposed to have been only a place of safety or retreat for the depredators, who frequently came down from the Highlands to carry off the cattle belonging to the inhabitants of the low country. This last conjecture is the most probable. That Finella had her residence in this neighbourhood is highly probable. The hill which runs between Fordoun and Kincardine has the name of Strathfinella.

There



There are many who suppose that the castle at Kincardine was not Kenneth's but Finella's castle.

*Eminent Men.*—This parish is remarkable for having been for some time the residence, and probably the burial-place of St Palladius, who was sent by Pope Celestine into Scotland some time in the 5th century, to oppose the Pelagian heresy, and by whom it is thought bishops were first appointed in Scotland, having before that time been governed by monks. That Palladius resided, and was probably buried here, appears from several circumstances. There is a house which still remains in the church-yard, called St Palladius's chapel, where, it is said, the image of the saint was kept, and to which pilgrimages were performed from the most distant parts of Scotland. There is a well at the corner of the minister's garden, which goes by the name of Paldy well.—This parish is farther remarkable in having been, if not the birth-place, at least, the temporary residence, and probably the burial-place of John Fordoun, author of the *Scoticchronicon*, one of the most ancient and most authentic histories which have been published of Scotland. He is thought by some to have been a man of property in this parish; by others, with greater probability, to have been a monk who resided here.—This parish has also given birth to the present Lord Monboddo, a man well known in the literary world by his writings on ancient metaphysics, and on the origin and progress of language.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In the south side of the parish, the fuel commonly used is coal, which is brought from Stonehaven or John's haven, the distance 10 English miles. Seventy-two stone of Scotch coals are sold on the shore, at 8 s. and 9 s. Sterling. A barrel, that is 12 stone of English coals, is sold for 1 s. 6 d. and 1 s. 8 d. In the north



north side of the parish, the most common fuel is peats and turfs, which are brought from the Grampian Hills.—The post-roads and bridges are kept in repair by the statute-labour, which is commonly exacted in kind. The cross roads are very much neglected. The inhabitants in general are much averse to turnpikes, thinking they would render their travelling from place to place, and the carrying their goods to market, much more expensive than at present.—Somewhat more than a year ago, a remarkable whirlwind happened at one of the great fairs in this country, called Paldy fair, and which stands in this parish, by which some of the tents in the market were unroofed. It was accompanied with thunder and lightning, and succeeded by a sudden fall of rain and hail, which swelled the small river of Bervie, which is the largest in the parish, and runs near to the market-place, to such a height, that for several hours it was impossible to pass it even on horseback.—The language spoken is English, with the provincial accent. Many names of places are of Gaelic extraction.—The people here are taller and stronger made than the generality of those to the north or west. Several of them exceed 6 feet. They are in general industrious.—The principal manufacture is spinning of flax, and weaving cloth, especially linen cloth. Being at some distance from the sea, the parishioners seem not to be fond of a seafaring life, and few of them choose a military one. They are in general humane and generous, contented and happy. They dress better, and live better in their own houses now, than they did 20 or 30 years ago. At the same time, the taverns and public-houses are not so much frequented now as then.



NUMBER LXV.

PARISH OF KINGLASSIE,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES REID.

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*Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**I**T is the opinion of some, that the name is originally Gaelic, and expressive of the situation; others trace it from a saint, whose name was *Glas*, and point out a well of fine water, called St Glas's well. The parish is situated in the presbytery of Kirkaldy, and Synod of Fife. The extent from W. to E. is about 4 computed miles, and 2 from N. to S. Its form is nearly a parallelogram, and it is bounded on the W. by part of Portmoak, Ballingry, and Auchterderran; on the E. by part of Markinch and Dyfart; on the N. by the river of Leven, and part of Portmoak and Leslie; on the S. by part of Dyfart and Auchterderran. The district is partly flat on the banks of Lochty and Ore, two small rivulets; at a small distance from which, the ground has a regular ascent, and forms 2 ridges. The soil is partly light loam, and partly strong clay, with rich meadows on the banks of the rivers. The streams would abound with excellent trout, were the people restrained from watering their flax in them. The Le-

ven



ven produces trout of the same quality with those in Lochleven, with pike and some salmon. The air in the flat part of the parish is damp, and often occasions rheumatisms. There are many stone quarries and coal mines. Coal is the only fuel. The mine presently worked is esteemed the best burning coal in Fife. The coals are sold on the hill at 6 d. the load, each load weighing 22 stone Dutch weight. There are 2 moors, both covered with stones, heath, and furze; but being commonities, no attempt is made to divide or bring them into a better state, which might be done at small expence.

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*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 998. Population has not varied much these 20 years. The number of souls was then about 1200, and does not at this day exceed it. Though the inhabitants of the village have increased from 150 to 250, the other parts of the parish have suffered a proportionable decrease, from a number of the small farms being thrown into one. Births are nearly 25 or 30 annually; but as the half of the heads of families adhere to some or other of the Sectaries, the births of their children cannot be well ascertained; as few of them are inclined to have their names recorded in the parish register, which subjects them to a small expence. There are 34 farms in this parish, besides cottagers and feuers. The trades are weavers, employed by the manufacturers in the coast towns, with masons, &c.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Plantations are in a very prosperous state in many places. The extent of the parish is about 6000 acres nearly. The whole rent in money and victual is about L. 3000 yearly. There is scarcely one-third of the land in tillage. Above two-thirds in pasturage. The parish is sufficient to supply itself in provisions, and can send to market about



about 200 black cattle, and 40 horses annually, besides wheat, barley, and oat-meal to a considerable amount. The breed of cattle is greatly improved in size and quality. Oxen, after ploughing is over, sell at L. 20, and some at L. 24 the yoke, for putting on grass-fields. The breed of draught horses is also much improved within these 20 years, owing to the particular attention of Major Aytoun of Inchdairnie, who sent down from England the best stallions and Flanders mares ever seen in this part of the country. Formerly each farmer kept or bred sheep; but now there are none, except a few ewes and lambs for the use of families, owing to the general practice of inclosing with ditch and hedge and Galloway dikes, and laying down the inclosed fields with grass-seeds. Nearly 1800 cattle, including horses, are pastured here annually. There are sown with lintseed from 80 to 100 acres; with oats and barley about 1200; with wheat above 120. Potatoes, turnip and summer fallow, occupy 200. Oats and peas are sown in March, lintseed in middle of April, barley from end of April to end of May.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The living is 6 chalders victual, 3 bear, and 3 meal, with L. 40 money. The Countess of Rothes has the patronage. The church was repaired in 1773, and the manse rebuilt in 1774. There are 23 heritors who pay stipend; of this number 6 are feuers. The feuers only reside.—The usual number of poor, including their children, are between 30 and 40. They are not allowed to beg, the parish funds being sufficient for their subsistence, and amount in whole to near L. 40 yearly, in land, money and collections.

*Prices and Wages.*—During spring and summer, good beef is sold at 5 d. the pound, veal, mutton and lamb, from



from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. to 5 d. and 6 d. all Tron weight, within the bounds of the presbytery of Kirkaldy. The lower class use no animal food, but live on meal, potatoes, milk and small beer, with kail.—A common labourer earns 1 s. a-day. Servants wages are of late greatly increased. A man servant's wages for the plough and cart are from L. 5, 5 s. to L. 7, 7 s. yearly. Maid servants from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is only one village in this parish.—Toll-bars are lately erected.—Rent of land varies with the soil and crops. Some acres are let at 5 s. each, others at 15 s. and L. 1, 10 s.; and when let for lint-feed or potatoes, at L. 3, L. 4, and L. 5. There is a hill called Goat-milk Hill, let 20 years ago at L. 25, for some years past it rents at L. 120; it is 24 acres. The rents of farms are from L. 20 to L. 200, and the highest rent is for the most part the cheapest bargain. Twenty years ago, few farms in this parish were inclosed; now every farm is either inclosed in whole, or in part, to which the people are now perfectly reconciled.—Civilization of manners has made a little progress among farmers and the better sort of inhabitants. The lower class seem, in a great measure, to retain the rough manners and barbarous customs of their ancestors, while each vie with the other in expensive dress, often above their station, or what they can seldom afford; which may be occasioned by their high wages, and reduced prices of home manufactures, as well as a taste for that species of luxury.



NUMBER LXVI.

PARISH OF CRAWFORD,

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES MACONOCHIE.

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*Name, Situation, Surface, Climate, Soil, &c.*

THIS parish was anciently known by the name of *Douglas-moor*, and part of it by that of *Friar-moor*. The Douglas family have still lands in this place, and that they had once great property in it, appears from the superiorities of a great part of the parish belonging to Lord Douglas, the representative of that family. At what time the name *Crawford* or *Crawford-moor* began to prevail, I have not been able to learn. The parish is in the presbytery of Lanark, and Synod of Glasgow and Air. Crawford, which forms the S. E. corner of Lanarkshire, is bounded by 8 or 9 different parishes; but more particularly, it has Tweed's-muir to the E.; Durisdeer to the S.; Crawford-John to the W.; and Lamington to the N. The length from S. E. to N. W. in other words, from the source of the Daire (the principal branch of the Clyde) to the place where the Clyde leaves the parish, is 18 miles. The breadth from the boundary toward Wanlock-head to that on Tweed's-muir, is between 15 and



16 miles. All this extent of country, a few appendages excepted, is possessed by 14 farmers or storemasters. The 3 principal rivers in the south of Scotland, viz. the Clyde, the Tweed and the Annan, have their sources in the hills which divide us from Tweed's-muir. The hill called the Lauders is chiefly within this parish, and is the highest in the south of Scotland; its elevation above the sea being 3150 feet. As to the climate, the following fact may be stated: In January 1785, a man perished here in the snow; his body, which was not found till the month of April following, was then scarcely begun to putrefy. That winter was indeed remarkable for snow and drift, and the spring for frost. At present, (middle of June 1791), the frost, attended with showers of hail, has been for some nights so strong as to freeze water to the thickness of a quarter of an inch at least. The consequences have been hurtful to potatoes, leaves of trees, kail, &c. Our village is 30 miles distant from Dumfries, 40 from Glasgow, and rather more from Edinburgh. There is a visible descent on every side, except perhaps toward Crawford-John and Moor-kirk.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The greatest part of the parish consists of hills or moors. These are abundantly fit for pasture. Many of them are quite green. Others, which are partly covered with heath, have a great deal of the grass called bent, which becomes very luxuriant in the months of July and August. In some high places, there is very good moss, out of which peats are dug, which constitute the principal fuel. In many districts where peats cannot be dug, the earth is blackish, and inclined to moss. The valleys consist generally of a spongy light soil, and sometimes of clay, and are all covered during the summer with a very fine verdure. The wet and swampy grounds produce



duce spratts, which are often cut and made into hay. At the same time, it must be acknowledged, that the face of our country is naked, and how fit soever for pasture on the whole, there is waste ground in many places. Forests or natural wood have been destroyed long ago, of which, however, there are some small remains. As to plantations either of trees or hedges, we have made but little progress. Stone fences are even in their infancy. There are a few trees, some of which are seemingly of great age, about the castle of Crawford. The late Mr Irvin planted some strips round his house, which begin to decay already. Sheep and trees thrive not together. The great obstacle to improvements in this way, and perhaps in all others, arises from a cause, which, in all likelihood, will not be soon removed; the principal heritors of the parish live at a distance from it.—One improvement has taken place lately, which may be considered as preparative to many others. The public road from Douglas mill to Moffat, which goes through our parish, has been completed within these 10 years. The Glasgow and Carlisle carriers go this road every week, and for 3 years past, one mail-coach comes down, and another goes up every day.—The proportion of arable ground to that of pasture, may be as 1 to 200: Some hold it to be no more than 1 to 300. There are several farms in the higher parts of the parish, where grain has not been sown in the memory of man. The proportion of the arable to the ground actually ploughed every year, is about 1 to 20. Our situation and climate have been adverse to agriculture, even in our lowest grounds. The common oats were not ripe last year (1790) when the frost came, which was about the 9th of October. All our crops since 1782, one only excepted, have been hurt more or less by the frost.—Our soil being wet and spongy, manure can seldom be provided



vided during the winter, and in the summer, our storemasters are employed in a different way. This gives our fields an uncouth look, and even renders the crops later than they would otherwise be. This defect is in some measure supplied by the natural fertility of our lands.

When the seasons are good, no ground in Clydesdale produces more plentifully; but even in the best years, the grain is small. Oats and barley are the common, or only crops. Peas are sometimes tried, but seldom with success. Potatoes and flax are cultivated for private use. Few or none take the trouble to lay down fields with grass-seeds, or to sow turnip.—Heretofore, a great number of cows were kept on each farm; but sheep is now the grand object of attention. The best of them, that is, those come to the age of 3 or 4 years, sell from 12 s. to 15 s. the head. The sheep reared here, are those with black faces and black feet; consequently the wool is coarse, and has a mixture of black. The storemasters, however, look upon the black faced sheep as most profitable on the whole. They are strong, which fits them for enduring the colds of winter, and they grow to a great size. The wool sold here about 9 years ago from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. the stone. None of it is now sold for less than 5 s. Part of it goes to England by land-carriage, and part of it is shipped at Leith. It is not the custom to wash the sheep before they are shorn. The farmers are apprehensive lest the putting of them into the water should prevent their fattening. A little more attention, however, begins to be shewn to the wool, in consequence of the rise of the price. I should take the average price of a sheep's grass to be at present 2 s. or nearly so.—There is not a more active or intelligent set in this country than our storemasters.—The present rent of the parish is L. 3400. The farmers say, that the rents are too high, and that if there happen any fall  
in



in the price of sheep, they cannot stand it. None of our heritors take entry money or grassum, except one.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 2009. The population of Crawford amounts at present to about 520 persons, exclusive of Leadhills, where the numbers amount at present to 970; in all, 1490. The baptisms of children belonging to parents of the Established Church are commonly from 12 to 14 annually. The bulk of the people belong to the Established Church; about 6 Seceders, and 20 Cameronians. The population has been greatly reduced. About 40 years ago, the numbers, I am told, were at least double of what they are at present; and, by all accounts, the farmers were then more than double their present number. As the engrossing of farms went on, the inhabitants thinned.

*Wages, &c.*—The old people say, that one servant does as much work now as two in former times. This is in some degree requisite, as the wages are also about doubled. A maid servant, fit for out-door work, that is, for hoeing potatoes, working at hay, milking ewes and reaping corn, receives 40 s. in the summer half-year, whereas, 30 years ago, she would scarcely have got L. 1. A ploughman receives from L. 6 to L. 8 yearly; besides these who live in the master's house, and have victuals there, there are herds who commonly live in a separate house. They are allowed grass for a certain number of sheep and cows, and a certain quantity of meal for board, which in all amounts from L. 10 to L. 12 a-year. Every shepherd is attended by his dog; he stands in the valley, and sends the dog up the hill to the sheep. When the animal hath executed in part the commission with which he was sent out, he turns, looks at his master, and waits for further orders.



orders. When, by certain words, or rather vocal sounds, he hath learned anew the will of his master, he sets off again, and moves the sheep in whatever direction he is commanded. But in a severe winter, the business is more serious. When it drifts, the shepherds are obliged to stand upon the hills all night with the sheep, lest they should be suffocated in the snow, which sometimes happens. How severe, however, the weather may be, the sheep are seldom fed upon hay.

*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The stipend is L. 1000 Scots. The King is patron; but some say, that the right is vested in the family of Douglas. The church, manse, and school-house are old buildings, and not in good repair.—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 100 Scots. The children at school, considering our population, and the distance of some parts of the parish from the school, are numerous, being seldom under 30. The quarterly fees are from 1s. to 2s. 6d.—Of poor we have not a great number. There have not been, at any one time during my incumbency, above 15 or 16 on the roll. At present there is only 10. To these the session makes a distribution quarterly. The funds arise from collections in the church, and the interest of a small sum of money. We distribute at present, to the amount of L. 2, 10s. on quarter-day, beside supplying the exigencies that occur during the quarter, which may make about 10s. more. At an average, however, our distributions do not exceed 40s. while our numbers are so few. What has been now said of our poor, is to be understood exclusively of Leadhills. The poor of Leadhills, about 17 in number, are supported by the Earl of Hopetoun, and the collections that are made in the chapel there.

Lead



*Lead Mines.*—Leadhills contain the most famous and ancient lead mines in Scotland. There are two companies there, the affairs of which are conducted with great judgment and œconomy. The most considerable is that known by the name of the Scotch Mining Company, of which Mr Stirling is overseer. The first object that strikes the eye, in this mountainous region, is the spot of ground round this gentleman's house. The house itself is on the same level with the top of Tintock, which is looked upon as a very high hill in the part of the country where it is situated. The spot I mention, cannot amount to more than 3 acres. It contains, beside an house-stead, offices, and counting-room, a bowling green, a garden, and a park which feeds two cows, with strips of planting, which beautifully interline and surround the whole. The park is not above an acre, yet, as I said, it feeds two cows. The ground within half a gun-shot of it, without the inclosure, would be highly rented at 1s. the acre. This shews what culture will effect even in a wilderness. There are nearly 200 men employed by the Scotch Mining Company. These are subdivided into pickmen, smelters, washers, and labourers, besides carpenters and smiths. The payment of the pickmen depends upon the quantity of lead found. Five or six of them join, and take what they call a bargain, and according as it proves more or less productive of lead, their wages are more or less. But at an average, I am told every man receives from L. 18 to L. 20 a-year. A smelter receives fully as much. Most of the washers are very young, their wages therefore are less. The labourers who clear away rubbish from behind the pickmen, make each from L. 12 to L. 14 a-year. Meal and barley are purchased by both overseers, and reserved in stores, out of which all the hands employed by the respective Companies, receive every week a certain quantity for their families, which



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which makes part of their pay. They work in the mines only 6 hours in the 24. Having therefore a great deal of spare time, they employ themselves in reading, and for this purpose have been at the expence of fitting up a library, out of which every one who contributes to the expence receives books. There is a very good school in the place. I shall only farther observe, that the lead has for several years past been found very plentifully; and that it fetches a much higher price at market than it did 10 years ago. The Earl of Hopetoun receives the sixth bar for rent. His bailie, who sees all the lead weighed, and that for the rent sent apart, has favoured me with a note of the number of bars smelted at Leadhills, that is, by the two Companies, in 1786 and in 1790, and the crops, if I may be allowed to call them so, in these several years, were to one another nearly in the proportion of 10 to 18; that of 1790 amounting to within a very few bars of 18,000; whereas that of 1786 amounted only to 10,080. But the product of 1786 is looked upon as a very bad crop. The price of lead rose considerably after the conclusion of the American war. At one time it was about a third more. I am told, that at present it has rather fallen a little; and that the chief vents for it are Holland and Russia.

*Village of Crawford.*—This town, for such is the name it goes by, consists of above 20 freedoms, which, till within these 15 years, were in the form of run-rig. These freedoms were not freeholds; they were all holden of superiors, either of the Crawfords or Douglasses. Besides the masters of these freedoms, who were called Lairds, and their wives Ladies, there was a subordinate rank, who feued ground for a house and a yard. Each freedom consisted of 4 or 5 acres of croft land, parcelled out in all the different parts of the town, with a privilege of keeping a certain  
number



number of sheep, cows, and horses, on the hill or common pasture. This little republic was governed by a *birley court*, in which every proprietor of a freedom had a vote. If the proprietor resided not in the place, his tenant voted for him. The great business of the court was to determine the proportion and number of sheep, cows, and horses, which the respective proprietors should keep on the common pasture. As there was but little subordination in the court, it was remarkable for nothing so much as the noise that attended its deliberations. From the court that was held weekly, the members adjourned to an ale-house. The bills at the ale-house were not cleared above once or twice in the year, namely, when some sheep or a cow had been sold, and payment received. Thus the year went round. No time was bestowed, in what may be called cultivating and improving their property. The dung they put upon their fields, as they threw it out of their byres; and, if they found any man more industrious than themselves, that was disposed to purchase it, they took not that trouble. Lime, which is at no great distance, they never thought of driving. With the natural, I had almost said with the spontaneous produce of the soil, were these men content. What a contrast between these habits, and the activity and diligence of our present farmers! Hence I conclude, that in order to excite industry in a country, something more is necessary than that every man have his house and his field. It is necessary, that Gothic manners, or the indolent habit of all barbarians, be banished, and a spirit of ambition and enterprise be introduced. There is still great want of industry in our village; yet the old people speak of the easy life of former times, as making the most striking difference between them and the present. Since the division of the town, cultivation is mended. There are now more stone



fences on what was formerly called the town of Crawford, than there are in all the parish besides. One of my neighbours has been at considerable expense, not only in inclosing his freedom, and building a house, but in improving his ground, and planting trees.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—With respect to the common people in this parish, and indeed, in all the parishes round me, I observe a sobriety or regard to moral conduct, which, I hope, proceeds from religious principle. The herds and their wives, who live at too great a distance from the public school to send their children thither, are careful to teach them not only to read the Bible, but to get psalms by heart, &c. There may be instances of petty thefts, but great or daring ones are very rare. The greatest nuisances to which we are exposed, are strolling beggars, who go about the country, more especially at the time of shearing the sheep, and men in trowsers who pretend to be sailors in distress.—The prevailing distempers or ailments in this place, are the rheumatism and the scurvy. The humidity of our air is sufficient to account for the former, and I ascribe the latter to the manner of living. Salt mutton and beef constitute a principle article of food. The people in general are extremely fond of them, and at the same time are averse to vegetables. In the mid-land parts of the county of Banff, where I was born, flesh made seldom a part of the ordinary diet of the common people; when it was used, it was eaten indeed without vegetables, but it was always eaten in a manner fresh. Both rheumatisms and scurvy were much less frequently subjects of complaint there than here.—The ancient state of this parish furnishes perhaps as much subject for speculation as the present. We have 2 Roman roads, and no less than the sites of 3 camps,  
said



said to be Roman, but even the vestiges are greatly defaced. There are, however, evident marks of what was the state of the country in general about 200 years ago. Tower Lindsay, which is adjacent to the village on the other side of the Clyde, was, no doubt, a fortified place. The present castle scarcely deserves the name; but the ancient tower was famous even in the days of Wallace. There is a tradition, that it was stormed by that hero, and 50 Englishmen killed in it. It now lies in the form of a large heap of earth, all over green. The houses on the farms in the moor were formerly stone-vaults, some of which remain. These are still pointed to as the strong holds where the inhabitants preserved themselves and their property, at the time when the Douglasses of Clydesdale, and the Jardines and Johnstones of Annandale, were carrying on their hostilities and depredations.—There are hills in the parish, called watches, where persons sat in order to give notice on the first approach of an enemy. These notices were communicated almost instantaneously, from the head of the parish to the lower end, by smoke in the day, and flame in the night.—Queen Elizabeth, who had the direction of affairs in this country during the captivity of the unfortunate Mary, sent down a German to gather gold dust in the waters of Elvan and Glengonar, both which have their sources in the hills where the lead is found. This man wrote an account of his discoveries and labours, the manuscript of which is in the Advocate's library. The place where he washed the gold, took its name from the event, and is called the *Gold Scour*. There are verses still repeated in the parish, importing that he made a great fortune. Be that as it will, the business was resumed by order of the late Earl of Hopetoun, and, in a little time, discontinued again, as being less profitable than common labour. Gold dust  
is



is still found on the tops of the rocks, but the searching for it is rather matter of amusement, than of serious occupation. The particles, I am told, seldom exceed in size the point of a small pin.

NUM.



## NUMBER LXVII.

## PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-JUXTA,

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

*By the Rev. Mr GABRIEL SCOT.*

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*Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**K**IRKPATRICK has been evidently named after St Patrick, and is more properly spelled Kil Patrick. It is situated in the Synod of Dumfries, in the presbytery of Lochmaben. Its form is triangular, about 8 miles on each side. It lies on the S. W. side of the Annan, opposite to the parish of Moffat, by which it is bounded on the E. and N. On the S. E. it is bounded by Wamphrey; on the S. by Johnston; on the S. W. by Kirkmichael and Closeburn; on the N. W. by Crawford. The general appearance is rather bleak, interspersed with moss and moor, and almost without inclosures. For a mile S. W. of the Annan, it is flat and pretty populous. To the westward it is heathy and hilly. At the western extremity stands the mountain of Queensberry, whose top is about 3000 feet above the sea. The soil is shallow, but dry and moderately fertile. By means of turnpike roads lately made, and the encouragement given by the Earl of Hopetoun, it is now improving



ving by lime brought above 20 miles. The air is rather moist, from frequent rains from S. and S. W. but healthy, and free from agues. In 1789, there were 204 days wet or showery.

*Population.*—By Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 794. The population of the parish is rather decreased within the last 50 years. The number of farmers is one half diminished. 'Tis Lord Hopetoun's design to increase them. The present population is 617; 298 males; 319 females. Average of births 16; deaths 14; marriages 7; under 10, 156; between 10 and 20, 148; 20 and 30, 65; 30 and 40, 74; 40 and 50, 75; 50 and 60, 50; 60 and 70, 28; 70 and 80, 18; 80 and 90, 1; 90 and 100, 2. Families of farmers 52; other families 71; tradesmen 15; servants male and female, all (at least occasionally) labourers 62; Seceders 17; bachelors above the age of 21, 42; married men and widowers 95. Average of children alive of each family, including those of widowers and widows  $3\frac{1}{2}$ . Inhabited houses 132; number of persons to each, (exclusive of 9 solitary female cottagers,) fully 5.

*Productions, Agriculture, &c.*—Natural productions are oak, ash, birch, alder, hazel, &c. Much oak of a large growth is dug up in the moor. There are several late plantations of fir. Broom and furze abound. We have also alder, juniper, bird-cherry, crab, mountain ash. Wild strawberries, cranberries, nut-berries and others, peculiar to moors and mountains. That species of grass which grows on marshy ground, commonly called *spratt*, is much used for fodder. 'Tis somewhat remarkable, that the land where it grows, though not subject to be overflowed with water, bears annual cropping, without being manured or pastured



tured except in the latter end of the year. Moss accumulates very quickly upon stones when exposed to the weather, and likewise upon trees. There are in tillage 438 acres; for potatoes 35 acres; barley and big 20; almost all the rest for oats. There are of black cattle 625; sheep 448 scores; horses 95. The black cattle in this country are small, and mostly without horns; for the want of which, they are commonly preferred. The sheep are all of the short kind, large, but coarse woolled. They are tarred very thick, about a Scots pint of tar being allowed to 5 sheep. The English sheep are coming into repute in the neighbourhood. Lord Hope-toun keeps a few Spanish, which thrive pretty well. In general, the parish must be presumed to export provisions. But a very few acres are sown with rye-grass and clover. The whole of the parish, except about 600 acres, is in pasture. They sow from the beginning of March to the middle of April, and begin to reap in the first week of September. The land-rent of the parish is about L. 1827. There are about 40 ploughs, almost all of the Scotch kind, and as many carts. Almost every farm in the parish having a considerable variety of soil, it can only be computed that the arable land, if let separately, would rent from 6s. to 14s.; good bog meadow, as it requires little trouble or expence, might yield 12s. or 14s. There is no land capable of tillage, let exclusively for pasture. The highest rent in the parish is that of a sheep farm, *viz.* L. 220. Other sheep farms are rented at L. 100, and upwards. These have all more or less of arable land, from 8 to 30 acres. The average rent of those farms, on which there are no sheep, is L. 25. The number of these is increasing.—In 1782 and 1783, much corn was exported from this county both by land and sea. The oat-meal sold then at 2s. 6d. the stone. The poor certainly depend



depend more on potatoes in this county, than in any other in the South of Scotland.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend is L. 72, 4s. including L. 5 for communion-elements. The glebe is worth about L. 4, 10s. a-year. The Earl of Hopetoun is patron, as curator for the Marquis of Annandale. The church seems to have been built in 1676, thatched with heath till 1736, then raised in the walls and slated. The manse was built in 1788. The number of heritors is 9. None reside but one inconsiderable proprietor.—There was no *legal* school in this parish till about 20 years ago. The salary is only L. 11, and the wages *a-quarter*, for reading, are no more than 1s. The number of scholars in summer is very small, in winter 40 or 50. Had not the present teacher been disabled for working as a common mason, he must have spurned at such a livelihood as this.—About 12 poor regularly receive alms; about L. 7 is collected at the church doors.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—The price of oats within the last 40 years has increased about one third. Beef and mutton sell at present about 4d. the pound, which is more than one third above their price 40 years ago. A man's wages for labour in husbandry, are in summer about 8d. and 10d. with victuals; a carpenter's 10d.; a mason's 1s.; a tailor's 8d.; all with victuals. The common fuel is peat, dug on almost every farm: when sold at Moffat the average price of a small cart-load is 2s. As the earnings of common labourers are small, their subsistence and accommodation must be scanty and mean. Small as their expenditure is, I find it very difficult to balance it with their earnings. From all the information I can obtain, I apprehend the following calculation



calculation to be pretty near the truth. The labourer has a wife and 4 children, the eldest 13 years, the youngest 5.

*Earnings.*

|                                                  |   |   |          |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|---|----------|
| The man earns, with victuals, 8 d. a-day for 265 |   |   |          |
| days                                             | - | - | L.8 16 8 |
| Childrens wages                                  | - | - | 1 0 0    |
| Charity or presents                              | - | - | 0 10 0   |
|                                                  |   |   | <hr/>    |
|                                                  |   |   | L.10 6 8 |

*Expenses.*

|                                            |   |          |
|--------------------------------------------|---|----------|
| Oat-meal, 40 stone, at 1 s. 8 d. the stone | - | L.3 6 8  |
| Butcher-meat                               | - | 1 0 0    |
| Wool, 2 stone, spun for clothes            | - | 0 12 0   |
| Milk and butter                            | - | 1 5 0    |
| Salt                                       | - | 0 4 0    |
| House rent                                 | - | 0 16 0   |
| Barley, 4 stone                            | - | 0 6 8    |
| Shoes                                      | - | 0 15 0   |
| Potatoes for feed, and bought              | - | 0 10 0   |
| Linen, aprons, &c.                         | - | 0 10 0   |
| Lying in and burials, &c.                  | - | 0 10 0   |
| Peat                                       | - | 0 7 0    |
| Tools, repairs of house and furniture      | - | 0 4 4    |
|                                            |   | <hr/>    |
|                                            |   | L.10 6 8 |

I have omitted several articles of dress and finery, watch, pocket money at weddings, fairs, &c. education of children at school, &c. How these can be defrayed by the earnings of the wife from harvest work or spinning beyond what is necessary for the family, 'tis difficult to conceive. Many however, who seem to live according to the above calculation,



tion, receive no public charity. The wages of a man servant are from L. 6 to L. 8 a-year; of a woman from L. 2, 10s. to L. 4.

*Antiquities.*—There is a Roman road yet to be traced running through the parish from S. to N. It comes up the E. bank of Annan, from the ruins of a large camp at Burnswark, in the parish of Middlebie, and passes here a place called *Tatius-holm*, where there are some remains of a square encampment of small extent. Upon digging, I could only find some earthen ware in fragments, very strong and coarse. I have procured from the people who have tilled the adjoining fields, a few bits of green and party-coloured glass, and small pieces of a substance resembling marble, about half an inch broad, round, smooth, and flat on one side. Some have been found which were perforated in the middle.—Near the Roman road where it enters the parish of Moffat, there was found in a moss about three years ago, a piece of gold of a semicircular form, evidently a fragment, in length 3 or 4 inches. On the outer edge it was ornamented with a border, in which were the following letters formed by cutting through the interstices, IOV. AVG. VOT. XX.—There are a great number of *cairns* or *burians*; also many circular inclosures on hills and eminences, formed by a great quantity of stones, which have now no appearance of having been built. They measure in diameter from 100 to 200 feet. They are commonly supposed to have been used for securing the cattle from enemies and thieves, in a country much infested with both. There are several ruins, called by the common people *towers*, which have been surrounded by ditches and walls. By far the most remarkable of these is the *park* of *Achancafs*. The walls, which are about 150 feet square, and



and some parts of which are still standing to the height of 20 feet, are no less than 15 feet in thickness. The fort had been supplied with water by a leaden pipe, part of which was lately dug up. The place is strong by nature, from the precipices and morasses by which it is surrounded.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people in general are quiet, sober and contented. No murder, suicide nor robbery, is known to have happened in the parish.—Almost every family spins coarse cloth for its own use; but unfortunately there is no considerable woollen manufacture in all Annandale. Great part of the wool is exported to England.—The condition of the people might, in my humble opinion, be much ameliorated, if the proprietors of land would grant them longer leases and better houses, and either inclose their grounds, where arable, or encourage their tenants to do it. By such means, many acres not worth more at present than 1s. a-year, might be improved so as to yield in a few years 12s. or 15s. So eager are the tenants here for tacks, that for a 19 year tack of a very small farm, moderately rented, 6 or 8 times the amount of the rent is sometimes paid as entries. There are particular reasons for the Marquis of Annandale's lands not being let in long leases; but the people have such a well founded confidence in the honour and generosity of the Earl of Hopetoun, that they do not seem to suffer much from the want of them.—Fifty years ago, silk and cotton were very rarely to be seen; now a servant maid cannot be in dress without both. There were then no watches but the minister's; now there is scarcely a man servant who is without one. Clocks, mostly of wood, are also very common. Seventy years ago, there was not a pane of glass, except in  
two



two houses; now every house has at least one glass window. In other respects, however, the houses of the common people have improved little or nothing. Seventy years ago, the hire of a man servant was about L. 1, 4 s. of a woman scarcely 10 s. a-year.—The common people were certainly more ignorant 50 years ago than at present. Several at that time had not learned either to write or read; now they can all read pretty well, and all the men at least can write. Several of the farmers read history, magazines and newspapers. The vulgar read almost nothing but books on religious subjects. Many of them are too fond of controversial divinity; a taste which the Dissenters are very diligent in promoting, and which the few books they are acquainted with, are rather calculated to confirm. To discourage this unhappy propensity, so common through a great part of Scotland, and to recommend books of a more rational and instructive nature, seems an object worthy of a clergyman.—Inoculation of the small-pox is far from being general in this country. The common people are strongly prejudiced against it. To this circumstance a large proportion of the deaths which happen in this parish is to be ascribed.—Rheumatism is universally allowed to be much more common now than it was 40 years ago. I have heard no satisfactory reasons assigned for its increase. Thinner clothing, and the more general use of linen next the skin, may perhaps account for it in part.

NUM.



NUMBER LXVIII.

PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-IRONGRAY,

(COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES FINNAN.

*Situation, Soil, Surface, Air, &c.*

**K**IRKPATRICK-Irongray, is one of the 10 parishes in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, lying E. of the water of Urr, and within the presbytery and Synod of Dumfries. It is bounded on the E. within 2 miles of Dumfries, by the parish of Terregles, which is also its limit for a good way on the S. On the same quarter likewise, it is divided from Lochrutton, by some miles of a dead running body of water, called the Bogrie-lane. The parishes of Urr, Kirkpatrick-Durham, and Holywood, terminate Irongray in moor-lands to the W. and a stream called Speddoch-burn, running N. into the river Cairn, also divides it from Holywood, as does the said river for more than 2 miles down. The parish is computed to be about 9 miles long, and though narrow in the E. next to Dumfries, it increases in breadth almost the whole way to the W. and may be about 3 miles broad at the centre. The soil is generally dry, consisting of a kindly mould, not very deep, mixed with smooth



smooth stones, which are of such a size as not to stop the plough. Of this sort of land there are above 500 acres, all arable, for 2 miles up from the eastern extremity. The parish then rises into hills, except a track of low land in some parts, on both sides the river Cluden. These hills, as well as the fine track of land below, have been mostly marled, and though it is said they were covered with heath of old, yet having been ploughed, they have now a green surface, and are good pasture; but though the soil is intrinsically good, the climate is cold, and the crops, though luxuriant, are exposed to shaking winds, and late in coming to maturity. Passing the summits of these hills, the parish slopes into a number of fine farms, little inferior in quality to those on the east side, though the climate is not quite so warm. After passing a sort of valley, where there are a few houses, the parish rises through a track of arable lands, of a cold bottom, into sheep walks and moors, on the borders of Kirkpatrick-Durham, &c. This description comprehends only that part of the parish lying E. of the old water of Cluden, and S. of the burn of Cornlee: for to the N. and W. of that winding stream, there rises a mountain called the Bishop's Forest, *apparently* the highest, perhaps of any at the same nearness to Dumfries, yet of no very steep or difficult ascent in most places, owing to a very extended and irregular base, around which are planted several large and distinct farms and properties. This hill is skirted along the river Cairn to the N. with woods, for 2 miles, which reach up the hill in many parts, for more than half a mile. Some of the farms extend to the summit, and others only a part of the way. The hill has a heathy appearance at a distance, with some rocks and moorstones rising to the view at the same time, while the sheep find some green and wholesome pasture here and there interspersed.—The inhabitants



habitants in general are healthy; nor has any thing like epidemical fevers taken place among them these 16 years past. Inoculation has taken place in part here. The minister while in another charge, inoculated 5 children of his own, at two different times, with his own hand. Upon inoculating 3 at first, the people seemed to be shocked and offended; but when he came to have other two fit subjects, he warned his neighbours of his intention to inoculate these also. The example was followed immediately then, by the inoculation of 30 children in the parish, by the hands of a common blood-letter from another parish, who had performed at home. They all did well.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Farms here are from 30 to 400 acres, and the rent of the best lands is between 15 s. and L. 1; very little, as yet, amounting to L. 1. The rents lessen as the parish approaches to moorlands. There are several excellent farmers in the parish, who know well how to adapt the culture to the soil. No great quantity of wheat is sown, as the land in general is not so strong as to promise luxuriant crops; and turnips are mostly given up, though the soil is well fitted to produce them. Great quantities of potatoes are now planted in the country all round Dumfries. The whole operations are performed by the plough. They afford, at least, one meal in the day, for  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the year, to the most of families. Part are sent to market, and some, even at this distance, are sent to flocks, and have sold from 1 s. to 2 s. the 100 weight. It is believed, (by the writer at least,) that were no more potatoes raised than what were 40 years ago, there would be a scarcity of provision in most years, from the increase of population; such a vast proportion of food does an acre of land planted with potatoes produce, beyond what the same could afford when sown with



with any grain whatever. Two crops of oats are commonly taken from the lands at first, the third is potatoes or peas, and the fourth barley, sown down with rye-grass and clover, and to enlarge the barley field, the farmers of late, have fallen upon a method of laying dung upon the oats stubble, after harvest, and ploughing it down immediately; which, by a cross ploughing in the spring, and the feed furrow at last, affords even better crops than the potato land itself. This is counted an improvement, as barley is a principal fund for paying rents, which is always saleable in proportion to the prices that are going at Whitehaven and Liverpool, which have afforded here for several years past, from 2s. to 3s. the Winchester bushel. A much greater quantity of oats is produced also in the parish than is consumed in it; partly sold in the market of Dumfries, but chiefly made into meal, and shipped for Greenock and other places. It is easy to see that the prices will be different in different seasons; being from 1s. 6d. to 2s. the stone, of 17½ lbs. according to the demand from other places. This article of oat-meal, the general food of the country, cannot be said to have risen in proportion to provisions of other kinds; the prices of which are double what they were 40 years ago.—The number of horses may be about 174, of black cattle 1416, and of sheep 3080. The cattle are of a middle size, and like other Galloways, are known to be excellent feeders; but as the best of the land is all arable, the farmers commonly sell their bullocks before they are old enough to feed into beef. Of the sheep, 120 may be of the Mug or Bakewell kind, and only thrive well upon the good land, the ewes generally producing two lambs each, which are sold to the butchers in July, for 8s. or 9s. a-piece. The wool of these sheep brings about 14s. or 15s. the stone, of 24 lb. while that of the moor sheep is coarse, and sells at about 8s.

In



In the course of the minister's incumbency, upon a sort of gross recollection, there have been sold by different proprietors, about L. 1600 worth of woods; consisting of oak, ash, alder, birch, and hazle. The smaller kind was manufactured into charcoal, and sent to the furnaces at Whitehaven; the larger kind was sent for ship-timber to different ports, and a great part was bought by tradesmen, and others round the country.—There are 7 marl-pits in the parish, some of which are mostly exhausted. It is said, that this manure was discovered and used in a farm here, about 50 or 60 years ago, before it was used in any other part, at least in the south of Scotland. Luxuriant crops were raised by it at first, and the people continued to plough, till the ground was reduced to a *caput mortuum*. They now know well how to manage it, by taking fewer crops, and laying the last down with dung and grass-seeds, though it is found that the frequent repetition of marl, especially upon thin land, does little good, or rather is hurtful, by loosening the soil so much, that the corn-plants are thrown out at a certain time. They who have no marl, bring lime to their lands from Closeburn or Barjarg, 2 farms at the distance of 8 or 10 miles, or from the harbour below Dumfries, at the distance of 7 or 8 miles. At least every farmer now, almost, brings some lime, less or more, to his possession.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 4415:19:8 Scots money, and the real rent at present is about L. 2770 Sterling. No services are paid by the tenants in general.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—Stipend and glebe are not worth above L. 80 a-year. The walls of the church have been built time out of mind, and are still firm and strong. Mr Ferguson of Craigdarroch and Mr Oswald of Auchincruive are vice-patrons.—The schoolmaster's salary is about



L. 7. As there are no villages in the parish, the scholars are not numerous, seldom 30, even in winter; and the master is obliged to teach 2 years in a house near the church, and alternately other 2 years 3 miles up the parish. The quarter wages are from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. People at a distance from either school hire a lad for themselves, who goes from one family to another, along with his scholars, by turns.—The poor have been from 14 to 18. The annual collections may be about L. 14. There is L. 6, 10 s. arising from interest of lent money, and they have L. 2, 10 s. of land-rent. None beg, it is believed, nor need beg out of the parish. To afford relief for the deficiency of crop 1782, a liberal contribution was made for the poor. In fact, there was no scarcity of provision in the parish, though dear, as the best part ripens early, and though the corns were covered with snow for some days in some of the highest parts of the moor farms. Among the worst things in the police of the country, is the permission of vagrants and sturdy beggars from all parts, especially from the large village called the Bridgend of Dumfries, which has no magistrate. That village is a receptacle of people of that sort from the three kingdoms. These, from pretence of fishing or trafficking or begging, spy out what is for their purpose in the day-time, and in the night return, and at times commit considerable depredations.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 895. Upon an enumeration in 1778, there were found 585 examinable persons. All the alteration, in a general view of the parish since that time, may amount to 610. There are 25 heritors, 7 or 8 of whom reside. Of Dissenters there are 9 Cameronians and 10 Seceders.



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—No inhabitant of the parish has been imprisoned for crimes during the incumbency of the present minister, which has continued more than 16 years. The people, as to individuals, rather than numbers, are greatly changed in that period, on account of old tenants going out, and new ones coming in. They are sober and industrious. There is not so much as an ale-house now in the whole parish. The licences are so high, that no public-house in a country place can afford to pay them; and the duty upon malt is also so high, and so rigorously exacted, that the people grudge to pay it. This has retrenched the comforts of life to several families; for a little ale was very necessary for a while in winter, when the cows, mostly in calf, and fed upon straw, yield but little or no milk. One improvement, however, has been fallen upon lately in the means of living by handicraftsmen, and such as rent no land. When the corns are got in, they buy a pig, which they ring, and get liberty from their landlords for it to run about. This they feed upon offals and potatoes, which they get planted somewhere for work in harvest, and the animal becomes a good morsel at the end of March, and affords a mouthful now and then through the summer. The article of fuel is very scarce and expensive, especially for several miles in the lower part of the parish, where there are no peats. And coals are brought 24 miles from Sanquhar; or from some harbour, perhaps 2 miles below Dumfries, at a dear rate, owing to the high duty that is upon that article, when water-born.—A custom prevails all over the country, of carrying the dead for interment to a distant church-yard, if the ancestors of the deceased were buried there. In fact, there are more funerals here from other parishes than from the parish itself, and the people here follow the same custom, if they have burying-places elsewhere.—A farm on the east  
side



side of the hills first mentioned, commanding a full view of Dumfries, and even beyond it towards Annandale, is called Ingleston.—The tradition is, that it was so called from the beacons or fires that were kindled there, or on the hill belonging to it, in times of hostility with the English or borderers, to give warning to other parts of the country, of the approach of an enemy. For the word Ingle (perhaps from the Latin Ignis) to this day, is very often used for a fire by the common people all over this country.—Game of most kinds is as plenty here as in any of the neighbouring parishes. Even the beautiful black cock, as well as the grouse, is to be met with on the high grounds. Foxes bring forth in holes upon the bishop's forest formerly mentioned. When they begin to kill sheep any where in the parish, the huntsman, who is paid by the county, is sent for, and he seldom fails to unkennel a fox on that hill, or in the woods around it. At the same time, it is observed, that Reynard does less injury to the sheep in this neighbourhood, than he is known to do in many other parts of the Stewartry; owing perhaps to the variety of game he catches himself, and to the wild berries which he finds in the woods for his support.—Over a water which falls into the river Cairn, is an excellent stone bridge of one arch. It is founded upon two perpendicular rocks, and forms a most romantic scene. As it is lower than the ground leading to it on each end, you are surprised by the sight of it almost before you are aware. It is called the *Routing* bridge, evidently from the noise made by the water immediately above it. Standing upon the bridge, and looking up the stream, you see very little of its course, till it begins, above the level of the spectator's eye, to tumble in broken water, among large unequal rocks, for about 8 or 10 yards in a rapid descent, and falls in a cataract of about 10 or 12 feet deep, so near the  
bridge,



bridge, that the traveller feels something like dew or spray, as he passes, when the water is swelled and the wind in the south. Upon turning to the parapet on the nether side and looking over, you have a sudden contrast, in seeing the water smooth in a clear day, and the trouts sporting and feeding in a pool below, which is partly overhung by oaks on each side, while the rocks and bridge are, in some places, matted with woodbine. To this picturesque scene, people that have time to ride for health or amusement, frequently come from Dumfries or elsewhere, as the road is good, and the object not much above 5 miles distant from that town.

NUM.



## NUMBER LXIX.

## PARISH OF LARGO,

## (COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By the Rev. Mr SPENCE OLIPHANT.*

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*Situation, Soil, Air, &c.*

THIS parish is situated in the presbytery of St Andrew's, and Synod of Fife; bounded on the W. by the parish of Scoonie, on the N. by Ceres, on the E. by Newburn, and on the S. by Largo Bay. It is of an irregular figure, extending from S. W. to N. E. nearly 6 miles. Its breadth is very unequal. The area of the whole contains 5469 acres. To the traveller, the south part of this parish must afford a picturesque and delightful scene of elegant country-seats, skirted with well laid out and thriving plantations, populous villages, surrounded with fertile fields, hill and dale, wood and water. The soil on the W. towards the sea, is light, bordered with link ground; the northern parts in general are of a thin black mould, on a wet bottom; in the southern, of a black loam, partly on a dry, and partly on a wet bottom, interspersed with fields of light land. Rich breaking clay is peculiar to the S. E. part of the parish, and there are some tracks in different directions, to the westward of the hill, consisting of clays of



of a more obdurate nature, and on a wet bottom.—From our vicinity to the German Ocean, we are frequently visited with cold and damp winds from the E. accompanied sometimes with much rain. During the spring and summer months, when the sun has had influence to rarify the air in the first part of the day, we may look for a very cooling sea-breeze by three in the afternoon. But this is common upon all the coast. We are indeed more sheltered from its influence, than many of our neighbours, from our local situation, and the plantations that surround. To the above circumstances, our prevailing diseases may be attributed; for, from the effect of cold and wet, coughs are very general, rheumatism and other inflammatory complaints are not unfrequent. Epidemic disorders sometimes appear, of which the nervous fever prevails chiefly among those who are much exposed in the spring and autumn, and who live at the same time upon a low and spare diet. Few children are now cut off by the small pox, as inoculation is generally introduced with remarkable success. During 20 years practice, our surgeon has not lost one patient.

*Agriculture, &c.*—In improvements, it may be justly said that this parish has led the way to all the neighbourhood. An open field is scarcely to be met with. All is inclosed, either with stone, or with ditch and hedge. Draining has not been neglected. Not only the spouts in the wet bottomed land have disappeared, but even the useless marsh and the deceitful bog, by draining, paring, and burning, have been turned into fruitful fields. The implements of husbandry are much improved. A light well contrived plough is introduced. The brake and roller are in common use. The diminution of the expence of culture is no small improvement. In place of 6 cattle and 2 horses, that seemed to be yoked for show, 20 or 30 years ago,



ago, and these driven by a stout lad or 2 boys, 2 horses, reined by the ploughman, now perform the work to much better purpose, and with greater speed. Hand and horse hoeing are practised. When the crop is gathered, it is preserved in the barn-yard from vermin, by being placed upon pillars of stone, 2 feet high. Machines for threshing have been introduced, but do not come up to expectation; from their very complex construction, they are apt to go wrong; the horses have a dead draught, and are made giddy by the circular motion. Wherever they can be erected upon a fall of water, all the purposes desired will be answered.—In the northern parts of the parish, there are considerable plantations of fir. Places covered with thorns, briars, and furze, 30 years ago, are now filled with all kinds of forest-trees, the annual thinning of which already produces a considerable sum. In 30 or 40 years, wood of different kinds will be a most profitable production.—The value of land is in a high proportion increased. What brought from 16 s. to L. 1 the acre, 20 years ago, now lets at L. 2 and L. 2, 10 s. and feus at L. 4 Sterling.—Except on the north skirts of the parish, where bear, oats, flax, and a few wretched potatoes, are the chief productions, every person possessing from 500, down to 1 acre of land, raises wheat almost as good as the best in Lothian. Those only who possess farms can afford to fallow for their wheat; but even these, as well as the smallest tenants, raise the greatest proportion of their wheat after clover, beans, and potatoes. Upon the best soil, barley is considered a profitable crop, and oats the least advantageous, unless after pasture. Turnips and cabbage are raised with success, for the cattles winter-provision. The carrot, the Swedish turnip, and root of scarcity, have not answered expectation. The Swedish turnip, it is supposed, will become very useful, when, by experiment, the proper mode  
of



of cultivating it shall be ascertained, and generally underflood.—Cattle are reared in considerable numbers; much attention is paid to the breed. The consequence of which is well known, as our cattle have been distinguished for beauty and size even in the London market. Horses are bred, both for draught and saddle. Sheep are fed, not produced here. Every family has swine.—In our quarries are found hard and freestone. Limestone is wrought in 2 different places. There is an extensive field of marl; and coal may be wrought to advantage. On the estate of Lundin, the coal has been cropped; but by erecting an engine near to the sea, a deep seam, which stretches over upon the estate of Largo, would be opened. This would amply supply the neighbourhood, and afford besides a considerable exportation.

*Sea-coast, Fisheries, &c.*—The south boundary of this parish is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of sea-coast. Largo Bay extends from Kingcraig Point to that of the Methul, making a diameter of near 7 miles in length, and marked by a ridge of sand. The included bay forms a semicircle of about 10 miles sea-coast. The above ridge is called by fishermen the Dike. Of this there is a tradition, although probably not well founded, among the oldest inhabitants of Largo, that there was formerly a wall or mound running from Kingcraig Point to that of the Methul, containing within it a vast forest, called the Wood of Forth.—About 10 years ago, fish abounded on this coast, particularly haddock, of a very delicate kind. But since that period, fish of every kind have become scarce, insomuch that there is not a haddock in the bay. All that remain, are a few small cod, podlies, and flounders. The fishermen have also disappeared, who, 20 years ago, constituted the chief part of the inhabitants of Largo and Drumochy. At present there



is not a fisherman in Largo, and only 1 in Drumochy, who fishes in summer, and catches rabbits in winter.—The harbour of Largo is formed by the influx of the water Keil. There is a stone key, where vessels of 200 ton may receive or discharge their cargoes ; but at no great expence it might be made to admit of ships of greater burden. The whole bay forms a safe roadstead for ships of every description, being sheltered from all winds, except the S. and S. W. ; and were it better known, might be a mean of preserving many lives, particularly when ships are forced into the Forth by storms from the N. E.

*Mountains.*—There is but 1 large hill, well known by the name of Largo Law. It is of a conical form, and rises about 800 feet above the level of the sea. Perhaps the name Law was given to this and many other hills of similar form, from the flame that did, or was supposed to have issued from their tops. The Swedes call flame, 'loa;' and the Danes, 'lue;' which resemble in sound our Scotch word 'low;' a flame. In support of this conjecture, there are, in the possession of Mr James Calderwood-Durham of Largo, several proclamations from the Privy-council of Scotland, ordering fires to be kindled on Largo Law, and that of North Berwick, as signals for the appearance of any ships of the enemy.—Besides this, there are 2 other Laws. But it is evident that these have been artificial. When the cairn was removed from one of these, a few years ago, a stone coffin was found at the bottom. From the position of the bones, it appeared that the person had been buried in a singular manner. The legs and arms had been carefully severed from the trunk, and laid diagonally across it.

*Manufactures*



*Manufactures and Trade.*—The principal manufacture is weaving. No woollen cloth indeed is wrought, but for a partial supply to the lower ranks of people. Linen and checks are the great articles. Almost every weaver, and a good number of others, have their bleaching ground, where they prepare linen, from the value of 9 d. to 4 s. the yard. Those who can afford to purchase yarn, work check and green linen, which they sell in Dyfart, Kirkaldy, Cupar, and Dundee. Others, of less stock, are employed in these branches by manufacturers in the above towns. The greatest proportion of flax is imported; much of it is dressed and spun in the parish. A woman commonly spins 2 hanks a-day, and she is paid from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. the spindle.—The farmers deal considerably in cattle, which go to the shambles in the surrounding country, and not a few to Edinburgh; the remainder are bought for the most part by English drovers. Wheat, barley, oats, beans, and sometimes potatoes, are shipped for Leith and the West country; salt, for Dundee and Perth. Wood and iron are imported from Norway. There are 3 corn-mills, having thirlage; 2 barley, and 3 lint mills; 2 salt-pans, supplied with coals from the distance of 4 miles.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 1396. At present (1791) 1913.

|                       |   |     |
|-----------------------|---|-----|
| Under 5 years of age, | - | 212 |
| Under 10 years,       | - | 226 |
| Under 20,             | - | 361 |
| Under 30,             | - | 272 |
| Under 40,             | - | 245 |
| Under 50,             | - | 177 |
| Under 60,             | - | 226 |
| Under 70,             | - | 136 |

Under



|                                                     |   |   |   |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|------|
| Under 80,                                           | - | - | - | 49   |
| Under 90,                                           | - | - | - | 7    |
| Under 100,                                          | - | - | - | 2    |
| In the year 1754, the number of people<br>was about | - | - | - | 1400 |

*Marriages, Baptisms, and Burials, for the last ten years,*

| <i>Years.</i>   | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Baptisms.</i> | <i>Burials.</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1781            | 13                | 29               | 41              |
| 1782            | 24                | 48               | 42              |
| 1783            | 16                | 42               | 56              |
| 1784            | 23                | 43               | 33              |
| 1785            | 17                | 39               | 35              |
| 1786            | 17                | 48               | 35              |
| 1787            | 16                | 33               | 15              |
| 1788            | 14                | 45               | 48              |
| 1789            | 16                | 26               | 23              |
| 1790            | 12                | 42               | 24              |
|                 | <hr/>             | <hr/>            | <hr/>           |
|                 | 168               | 395              | 352             |
| Yearly average, | 17                | 39               | 35              |

Some deduction ought to be made from the average of burials, on account of an hospital in the parish for old men, amounting to 14 in number, who are seldom admitted under 60 years. There are commonly 2 vacancies every year; sometimes 3, 4, and 5.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend consists of 6 chalders of victual, L. 36 : 6 : 4, L. 20 Scots for foggage, 5 acres of glebe, manse and garden. The manse was rebuilt 20 years ago, and is among the best in the presbytery. Since the demission of Mr Ferrier, who, in conjunction with a Mr Smith, minister at Newburn, formed a sect of Independents,



a spirit of schism has prevailed in this and all the adjacent parishes. Clergy abound here. There being 1 of the Establishment, 1 of the Relief, 1 of the Independents, and 2 of the Anabaptists. The number of souls belonging to the Establishment is 1211; belonging to Separatists, including 3 of the Episcopal persuasion, 702. There are 9 heritors. —The funds for the public school amount to about L. 30 a-year. A man of ability and application may look to this place as an object, as he would have a numerous school from the parish, and the safe and healthy situation of the place would attract boarders from all quarters.—At an average, the number of regular poor is 25, each of whom receives from 2 s. to 4 s. and 5 s. a-month. The funds amount to from L. 40 to L. 50 a-year, arising from money at interest, collections at the church-door, and mortcloths. From this state of the poor, and their provision, it may be justly observed, that the heritors and tenants, upon whom the legal support of the poor depends, save annually a considerable sum, on account of the management being vested in the kirk-session. Were the heritors to appoint a factor or treasurer for supplying the poor, were the poor to know that they are entitled to a legal support, they would soon discover either their real or fictitious wants, and boldly demand a supply; whereas the present mode of supporting them is attended with an opposite effect. By daily seeing and hearing of collections for the poor, the needy will suffer much, and work hard, before they can think of being classed among the number; and should this spirit be at last vanquished, either by distress or poverty, their children and friends will exert their utmost, to preserve their needy relation from what they think a reproach. If any at last become beggars, their monthly allowance is immediately withdrawn, with a view to induce them to return to some usefulness in society.

*Wages,*



*Wages, Living, &c.*—Working by contract is now much practised, the gain arising from which must be according to the bargain they make, and the industry with which they pursue their work. The wages of common labourers and hired servants can be easily ascertained, the general run being from 9 d. to 1 s. a-day; hired servants L. 13 a-year. This is to be understood of the man's earnings; and if a wife and children be concerned, it is but rare, that any addition can be stated to his income. Female servants have from L. 2 to L. 4, exclusive of their board, &c. Labourers and hired servants who have families, from the above account, cannot live sumptuously. Except at a birth or marriage, or some other festival, they do not in general taste butcher-meat. Meagre broth, potatoes, cheese, butter in small quantities, and a preparation of meal in different forms, make up their constant fare. All things considered, it is astonishing to see man, wife and children, in their Sunday's clothes; all are clean and neat, with faces expressive of contentment.—With respect to the general rank of people, their mode of living is undoubtedly improved, both as to lodging and diet.—Notwithstanding the jarring opinions in matters of religion, which may sometimes occasion a distant and reserved behaviour, the people in general have a kind and obliging turn. They are honest, sober and industrious; more forward to sympathise with their neighbour in distress, than to rejoice with him in his prosperity. Tenacious of the peculiar doctrines of Christianity, they do not pervert them to encourage licentiousness, being convinced, that purity of heart and life cannot be separated from the exalted hope which the gospel inspires.

*Hospital.*—In 1659, an hospital for old men of the name of Wood was founded by a Mr John Wood, who was a  
connection



connection of the famous Sir Andrew Wood of Largo. As hospitallers, there are 12 old men of the above name, who, with their wives (if they have any) are accommodated with a room and closet, with an annuity of L. 100 Scots. There is a large garden, which supplies them with vegetables of all kinds. There is also a porter, who, among other parts of his office, calls them to morning and evening prayers, which are given by a chaplain appointed for that purpose. The surgeon in the parish receives so much a-year for his attendance and advice. The funds arise from money at interest, and an excellent farm adjacent to the hospital. The gentlemen who possess the estates of Largo, Lundin, Wemyss and Balfour, with the minister of Largo, are patrons. These meet on the first Tuesday of September, in the hall of the hospital, to examine the accounts of their factor, to fill up vacancies, &c. A dinner is allowed by the founder. Of this dinner we lately found an old bill of fare, which shewed the taste of former times. There was charged for wine 3 s. and ale 10 s. The charge now is entirely reversed.

*Eminent and Notable Men.*—1. The faithful and brave Sir Andrew Wood, who flourished in the reigns of James III. and IV. of Scotland, was a native of this parish. Under James III. he possessed the barony of Largo in tack. But James IV. invested him in the property of it, on account of two signal victories he had obtained at sea, over the English, about the beginning of his reign. It appears that Sir Andrew, like Commodore Trunnion, brought on shore his nautical ideas and manners. From his house, down almost as far as the church, he formed a canal, upon which he used to sail in his barge to the church every Sunday in great state.—2. After Sir Andrew Wood, the barony of Largo came into the possession of the family of Durham,



ham, to which the celebrated Mr James Durham belonged, being brother to Sir Alexander Durham of Largo. This gentleman was distinguished both as a soldier and divine, being first a captain of dragoons, and then minister of the High Church of Glasgow. He was solicited to become professor of divinity in the college there; but being eminently distinguished among his brethren, he was by them appointed to the honourable office of chaplain at court. While at Glasgow, he had an opportunity of preaching before Oliver Cromwell, when he took occasion to speak with freedom of the injustice of Oliver's invasion. Being afterwards severely challenged by the Usurper, he calmly answered, that he thought it incumbent upon him to speak his mind freely upon that subject, especially as he had an opportunity of doing it in his own hearing.—3. Alexander Selkirk, who was rendered famous by Mons. de Foe, under the name of Robinson Crusoe. His history, divested of fable, is as follows: He was born in Largo in 1676. Having gone to sea in his youth, and in the year 1703, being failing master of the ship *Cinque Ports*, Captain Stradling, bound for the South Seas, he was put on shore, on the island of Juan Fernandez, as a punishment for mutiny. In that solitude he remained 4 years and 4 months, from which he was at last relieved, and brought to England by Captain Woods Rogers. He had with him in the island his clothes and bedding, with a firelock, some powder, bullets and tobacco, a hatchet, knife, kettle, his mathematical instruments and Bible. He built 2 huts of Piemento trees, and covered them with long grass, and, in a short time, lined them with skins of goats, which he killed with his musket, so long as his powder lasted, (which at first was but a pound); when that was spent, he caught them by speed of foot. Having learned to produce fire, by rubbing two pieces of wood together, he dressed his victuals in one of  
of



of his huts, and slept in the other, which was at some distance from his kitchen. A multitude of rats often disturbed his repose, by gnawing his feet, and other parts of his body, which induced him to feed a number of cats for his protection. In a short time, these became so tame, that they would lie about him in hundreds, and soon delivered him from the rats, his enemies. Upon his return, he declared to his friends, that nothing gave him so much uneasiness, as the thoughts, that when he died, his body would be devoured by those very cats he had with so much care tamed and fed. To divert his mind from such melancholy thoughts, he would sometimes dance and sing among his kids and goats, at other times retire to his devotion. His clothes and shoes were soon worn, by running through the woods. In the want of shoes he found little inconvenience, as the soles of his feet became so hard, that he could run every where without difficulty. As for clothes, he made for himself a coat and cap of goats skins, sewed with little thongs of the same, cut into proper form with his knife. His only needle was a nail. When his knife was worn to the back, he made others as well as he could, of some iron hoops that had been left on shore, by beating them thin, and grinding them on stones. By his long seclusion from intercourse with men, he had so far forgot the use of speech, that the people on board Captain Rogers's ship could scarce understand him, for he seemed to speak his words by halves. The chest and musket which Selkirk had with him on the island, are now in the possession of his grand-nephew, John Selkirk, weaver in Largo.

*Antiquities.*—On the bank of the water Keil, are the ruins of the ancient castle of Balcruvie, a place once of considerable strength, occupied of old by the family of Crawford.



ford. There is a square tower pretty entire. Of the old house of Largo, one round tower remains. A little southwards, in a large park, there is now an elegant modern house, commanding one of the finest and most extensive prospects in Scotland. About a mile to the westward, is the ancient tower of Lundin, which now constitutes a part of a modern building, with a Gothic front.—Near to this, in the middle of a plain, are 3 remarkable stones, standing upright in the ground, each measuring 6 yards above, and as much it is supposed below the ground. There are also fragments of a fourth, which seems to have been of equal magnitude with the other three. There is no inscription, nor the least vestige of any character to be found upon them. But the tradition is, that they are the grave-stones of some Danish chiefs, who fell in battle with the Scots near this place.

**MUN** This parish formerly was called Kildrummy, its name now is Lower Kildrummy, which is probably Gaelic, and has been given to it on account of its northern exposure. It is situated in the parish of Alford, and is about 3 miles in length, and 1 mile in breadth, and is bounded by Strathdon, and Glen-Don. The general appearance of the country is hilly, but not rocky. The hills for the most part are covered with heath. The only river that runs through this parish is the Don. It is well stored with trout, and in rainy seasons a few salmon get up. By the river-side, the soil, though not deep, is very fertile, and comparatively speaking, early. The air is dry and healthy. The most prevalent disease is the gravel, with which this and the neighbouring parishes are afflicted to a very remarkable degree. It is



## NUMBER LXX.

## PARISH OF TOWIE,

## (COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER MEARNES.*

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*Name, Situation, Air, &c.*

**T**HIS parish formerly was called Kilbartha; its name now is Towie-Kinbattoch, which is probably Gaelic, and has been given to it on account of its northern exposure. It is situated in the presbytery of Alford, and Synod of Aberdeen. Its length is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  English miles, and its breadth about 2. It is bounded by Strathdon, and Glenbucket on the W. by Cabrach on the N. by Kildrummy and Cushny on the E. and by Tarland and Migvy on the S. The general appearance of the country is hilly, but not rocky. The hills for the most part are covered with heath. The only river that runs through this parish is the Don. It is well stored with trout, and in rainy summers a few salmon get up. By the river-side, the soil, though not deep, is very fertile, and, comparatively speaking, early. The air is dry and healthy. The most prevalent distemper is the gravel, with which this and the neighbouring parishes are afflicted to a very remarkable degree. If it be true,



true, that this disease is hereditary, which is probable, this may in a great degree account for it, as the men seldom go for their wives beyond the bounds of their own or the neighbouring parish. There are some mineral waters here, which, if drunk for any considerable time, would probably give some relief from this dreadful complaint. But in this corner, as well as in many besides, the people have but too great a propensity to believe, that the diseases of their body, as well as those of their mind, are to be cured at once, and without that patient continuance which experience so uniformly declares to be necessary.

*Population, &c.*—The parish seems to have been more populous formerly than at present. According to Dr Webster's returns, the numbers were 656. There are now about 550 inhabitants, of whom 282 are males, 268 females. The register of births and burials has begun of late only to be kept regularly. For the last 6 years, the annual average of births is 12; of deaths is nearly 6. During the same space of time, the annual average of marriages is 5. There is reason to believe, that if the practice of inoculating for the small-pox prevailed throughout the different parishes, it would be very favourable to population. The minister, encouraged by the generosity of one of the heritors who resides in the neighbourhood, though not within the bounds of the parish, recommended from the pulpit, a general inoculation throughout the parish, and as an encouragement to the poorer sort, added, that no fees to the surgeon would be expected from them who could not afford the expense. In consequence of which, all the children, and young people, some of them 20 years of age and upwards, who had not formerly had the small-pox, were inoculated at once, excepting such as were prevented by cutaneous eruptions, and other



other circumstances that were thought unfriendly to inoculation; and of the whole, there was not one who was not easy under the disease, and had not a good recovery. One girl, indeed, after all hazard from the small-pox was over, and her recovery in a manner complete, happened to overheat herself in running with some of her companions, which brought on a fever that was the occasion of her death.—The parishioners here consist, in general, of farmers and their families. There is only one dissenting minister from the Established Church. There are very few mechanics; the farmers here, as is generally the case at such a distance from towns, uniting in their person, along with their own profession, that of mason, carpenter, and shoemaker, are, of course, remarkable for a degree of ingenuity and knowledge, to which the common people near the sea-coast, and where the division of labour is established, are strangers. The women, when within doors, are employed in spinning coarse linen-yarn to Aberdeen manufacturers, and make from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. a-week. The numbers in this parish, for 10 years past, have rather been decreasing, owing, in a great degree, to the scarcity of fuel. On several farms, that were formerly divided among 3 families, there resides at present only 1. The proportion between the annual births and the whole population, is nearly as 1 to 46; between the annual marriages and the whole population, is as 1 to 110; between the annual deaths and the whole population, is nearly as 1 to 92. The number of married men, including widowers, is 87; and of bachelors, reckoning from 20 years of age, 79. Each marriage, at an average, produces 4 or 5 children.

*Agriculture.*—No wheat is raised in the parish, and but few turnips or cabbages. The farmers, however, begin to be sensible of the value of green crops, and if they get proper



per encouragement, would pay more attention to them now than what they have formerly done. The parish supplies itself with provisions. It always spares a considerable quantity of meal and some bear, part of which is sold to the people that live near the head of the rivers Dee and Don, and the rest carried to Aberdeen. To that market, too, are annually sent a good many fat sheep. The dealers in black cattle carry, every year, from this and the neighbouring parishes, to the markets in the south of Scotland, a considerable number of cattle and cows, where they are brought up for English pasture and English markets. A lint-mill has been lately erected in this parish; and the farmers begin to raise some flax, but chiefly as yet for their own use. There is a very inconsiderable number of acres in sown or artificial grass. Of hill-pasture, there is a great deal, to which the arable ground bears a small proportion. Oats are generally sown from the middle of March to the middle of April; and when the barley ground is clean, the sooner it is sown so much the better. The harvest generally begins about the first of September. In 1782, though the crop was much hurt, there was within the parish as much wholesome feed, as would serve itself, and give some aid to their neighbours; and though the meal was less in quantity, and a considerable part of it much worse in quality than usual, the farmers were still able to spare as much as helped to pay their rents. A good deal of pains was taken, though without much success, to fix, if possible, on some decisive marks by which the good feed might be distinguished from such as was hurt by frost. Experience taught, that no stress at all was to be laid on the appearance of the grain in its natural state. The clearest and best looking part of it, when sowed, often produced the worst crop. The grain too, that yielded, when milled, the greatest quantity of meal was far from having



ving the best vegetative powers. Neither did it follow, because the grain sprung readily when put into a pot of earth, that therefore it might be depended on for good feed. It was often found to spring readily through the ground, without having strength enough to bring the plant to maturity. These remarks are confined to oats. As to bear or bigg, when it is hurt by frost, it is always believed to have an external appearance of being damaged. The upper end of the grain is blackened, which is owing, perhaps, to the husk's being more tender and more susceptible of impression than oats. By attending to this diversity in the husk of bear and oats, the incumbent was led to think, that though the hardness of the latter prevented any external appearance in its natural state, when the grain was injured by frost, yet when stripped of the husk, this appearance might be observed. Accordingly, after a narrow inspection of different specimens of oats intended for seed, after they were thus stripped, by being put through the mill, and attending to the crops they produced, he was inclined to believe that the appearance of the grain in that state, its being plump and clear, free of shrivelling and darkness of colour, especially at the extremities, is the best mark by which sound feed-oats may be distinguished from such as are hurt by the frost.—A great proportion of ground lies waste. The land-rent is about L. 1000 Sterling. The average rent of farms is L. 20 Sterling; and the size is such as to give employment for 8 small oxen, 3 or 4 very small horses, the tenant, a man and a boy.

*Prices and Wages.*—There is no public market within the parish for beef, mutton or poultry. Cheese sells at 5 s. the stone. Butter at 10 s. 6 d. the stone being 28 lb. English. The price of hens and ducks is generally 6 d. a piece.



piece. That of eggs  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d a-dozen. The boll of barley sells at an average for 13 s. and meal at 11 s. A day-labourer's wages are 6 d. with his victuals. A ploughman, getting his victuals in the house, has L. 5 a-year, and a woman servant L. 2, 10 s.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, which is scarcely 4 acres, amounts to L. 72 Sterling. Alexander Leith of Freefield, Esq; principal heritor, is patron. The number of heritors is 4, none of whom reside. The church was repaired in 1744, and the manse in 1778.—The number of poor in the parish receiving alms is 15. The annual contribution for their relief amounts to about L. 5, which, with L. 4, 10 s. the interest of L. 100 formerly saved, make the whole of the fund for the poor.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The scarcity of fuel, which is turf, peat, and heath, brought from hills far off, and the distance from a sea-port, are great disadvantages to this parish. There are 43 ploughs, each of which is generally drawn by 8 or 10 small oxen. There about 40 small carts, each drawn by 1 or 2 small horses.—The people in this corner are very agile and well-shaped, industrious and humane. They have no dislike to a military life, especially when any of the heritor's sons gets a commission. Luxury is a vice not known in this corner.—Land property is not often sold; when it is, the price is generally about 25 years purchase.—The people here are not remarkably given to complaints; but they are not insensible to their grievances. They well know, that as yet there is but little appearance of liberality in the mode adopted by land-holders, of letting their farms. If they happen to have any  
regular



regular tack, which is far from being always the case, the number of years is too small, often not amounting to 19, and never exceeding that number. And while the rent in money, meal, and barley, is high, the number of services is very heavy, being commonly expressed in such general, or rather ambiguous terms, as puts it into the power of the master, if he be so disposed, to oppress the tenant. A generous mind will never think, without indignation, on the desire which some proprietors of land in this Highland part of the country, have to keep their tenants in a state of slavish dependence. That the latter should presume to think for themselves, and the former have no other power of coercion but what reason and the laws of the country allow them, is a sentiment so little relished by many lairds, that a poor tenant, if he is disposed to cringe, will often be preferred to one whose spirit and circumstances lead him to think of a manly independence. Among the means by which the condition of the people in this part of Scotland could be ameliorated, the redressing of the above grievances is one. If any effectual method could be devised of banishing feudal prejudices, and quickening the progress northward, of a more liberal system in the letting of farms, it might be of the utmost consequence both to master and tenant. It must by no means be understood, however, that what is here said is applicable to the parish of Towie, more than to other parishes around it. On the contrary, from the well known character of several of the heritors, there is every reason to believe, that were a more liberal plan of letting leases to be introduced into this district, they would be exceedingly ready to forward and adopt such a beneficial measure.—The roads here are indifferent. They were originally made, and are kept in repair by the statute-labour,



bour, which is partly exacted in kind, and partly commuted. When paid in kind, it turns generally to little account. A general commutation seems to be the preferable mode.—There is granite and freestone in the parish, which are used for building houses.

NUM.



NUMBER LXXI.

UNITED PARISHES OF STRACHUR  
AND STRALACHLAN,

(COUNTY OF ARGYLE.)

*By the Rev. Mr CHARLES STEWART.*

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*Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

THESE parishes were united in the year 1650. Strachur, before that period, was joined to Lochgoilhead; Stralachlan to Inverchaolan. In erecting these parishes into one, it was appointed that the glebe and manse should be in Strachur, which is now considered as the mother-church; and Strachur is the name by which they are now known. Prior to 1650, the parishes in Argyleshire were very extensive, and incommodious for the clergy and people. Most of the clergy have still 2, some 3, some 4 places to preach in. The parishes are often intersected by arms of the sea, and chains of high mountains.—Strachur of old was called *Killmaglafs*, from *Kill*, which meant the residence of a faint; but it is commonly applied to a chapel, appropriated to the worship of a faint, and a small portion of ground around the chapel, which was considered as sanctified, and used for burying those who died in the peace of the church. *Maglafs* was the person's name who was considered



sidered as tutelor saint of Strachur.—Stralachlan was called *Killvorrie*, from *Kill*, as above, and *Moirre*, the Virgin Mary. Stralachlan itself is partly derived from *Lachlan*, the name of a family of considerable distinction among the Highland clans, and whose residence has been in Stralachlan for time immemorial. The representative of this family is chief of the Clan-lachlan.—This parish is situated in the presbytery of Dunoon, and Synod of Argyle. It is 18 English miles in length. From the N. E. for 8 miles, it is 6 broad; for the other 10, only 3 broad. It is bounded on the E. and N. E. by the united parishes of Lochgoilhead and Killmorrich; on the S. by the united parishes of Killmun and Dunoon, and by Killmodan; on the N. and N. W. by Lochfine, an arm of the sea, which separates it on the N. from Inverary, on the N. W. from Glaffrie.—The general appearance is hilly. There are some plains by the sea-side, and on the borders of small rivers, which bear a proportion to the hilly grounds only as 1 to 22. The hills afford excellent pasture for sheep and black cattle; they are gradually growing green, since the sheep's stocks have been introduced; the heath is decaying fast, wherever the sheep are allowed to pasture, but it never will be totally banished; the soil of the hills has a natural tendency to produce it.—The district of Cowal, containing 6 parishes, is a point of land, stretching from N. E. to S. W. between the river Clyde and Lochfine. The N. E. part of the district, which joins Perthshire, presents a very rugged and broken surface. The mountains become gradually lower and smoother, as you advance to the S. W.; and towards the extremity, comparatively speaking, the land is low and evenly.—There are a few spots on the banks of the river Cur, of excellent deep soil, a mixture of loam and clay, but in general the soil is sharp and thin; it requires a constant supply of manure to make it produce any kind



kind of crop ; if left fallow for 6 years, and not pastured by sheep, it is covered with heath. The meadows, in warm rainy seasons, give good crops of hay.—The air is pure and healthy, although a great quantity of rain falls on the hills and valleys, as is the case on all the west coast of Scotland. The rheumatism affects people of different ranks, and in different situations, owing, no doubt, to the moisture and variableness of the climate.

*Rivers, Lakes, Sea-coast, &c.*—The river Cur has its source in the mountains that border on Lochgoilhead ; for 2 miles it is rough and rapid ; when it comes down to the plain, it runs smoothly, forming a number of beautiful links. After running about 7 miles, and receiving a number of smaller rivers, it discharges itself into Locheck, a lake of 6 miles in length, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in breadth. The bounds of the parish extend for 3 miles on each side of this lake, which lies, thus far S. E. and N. W. ; it then forms a curve, turning S. and S. W. A few salmon, and a number of salmon-trout, come up this lake by the river Eachaig, which communicates with the Clyde. They are caught by angling. A still net has been tried on the lake with some success, but not enough to defray the expense of attendance. The salmon come up the river Cur in October and November, and remain through a great part of the winter ; very few in summer. This was not the case some time ago. It would appear the salmon is not so plenty in the rivers since still nets have become so numerous on the coast. The most remarkable thing with regard to \* Locheck is, its abounding with fresh water herring.

\* There is an old tradition in the parish regarding the origin of Locheck. It is said, the space it occupies was once a beautiful flat of arable land. The lake is now very deep ; in many places from 60 to 70 fathoms. The people in its neighbourhood account it the deepest of any in Scotland.



herring. They are a dry insipid fish; and are not discovered in any other lake on the west coast, excepting this and Lochlomond. This parish has 18 miles of sea-coast. Lochfine borders it on one side to the extent of its whole length. The shore of this loch is partly flat and sandy; partly steep and rocky. Where the land nigh the sea is low, the shore is flat; where the sea comes close to the foot of the hills, the shore is high and rocky. There are no dangerous sunk rocks on the coast; it is in general what the sailors call a bold, and consequently a safe shore. Besides the herring occasionally caught in Lochfine, there are a few cod and haddocks; but no boat from this parish is particularly employed in this kind of fishing.—The quantity of fresh water in Lochfine, from the number of streams that discharge themselves into it, and its distance from the ocean, renders the sea-ware it produces almost unfit for kelp. This manufacture is seldom attempted. The inhabitants manure their lands with such of it as they can get access to. The quantity of it that must be laid on the ground is great, and its substance is exhausted with the first crop. About 30 acres are manured with it annually for bear and potatoes. It answers well for bear; but the potatoes produced by it are of an inferior quality.—The river Cur annually carries away several acres of excellent soil. When swelled in different parts of its course, it undermines its banks, which tumble down and are carried away. It leaves a heap of gravel on the opposite side, which takes a long tract of years before it is covered with so much depth of soil as to produce a crop. In summer and autumn, by overflowing its banks, it often does much damage to the hay and corn; but there is no prospect of a canal being cut for it to prevent this mischief. The expense of this would be too great in proportion to the benefit that would be derived from it.

In



—In Autumn 1780, a remarkable water-spout fell on part of this parish, particularly on the hills to the north-east of Locheck. It rushed down the hills with such force, as to tear up the surface of the ground, tumbling down large stones, trees, moss, and land, which were mostly left in the plains that border the lake. Eight or ten acres of very good arable land were entirely destroyed. The quantity of stones and rubbish was so great, that twice the value of the land would not be sufficient to defray the expence of clearing it. Eight inhabited houses were totally thrown down, part carried into the lake, part buried under the sand, &c. Fortunately this happened about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The people saw the water rushing down, and alarmed at the appearance, left their houses, betook themselves to the rising grounds, and stood in the utmost consternation, beholding their houses and effects carried off. Several of the men, in attempting to save their property, were in imminent danger. Had this happened in the night-time, many lives must have been lost. The parish contributed generously to make up the losses of the poorest sufferers. Every man who could work, assisted with eagerness in rebuilding the houses. The landlord behaved with the greatest humanity to the tenants. All the houses on a small farm to the north-west of Locheck, were demolished by a similar flood, some years before.

*Curious Stones, &c.*—On a high part of that ridge of hills which separates Stralachlan from Glendaruel, there is a very large stone, remarkable for its situation. There is a descent from it on every side. The prospect from it is very extensive. It is called *Cailleach-vear* or *vera*. In the dark ages of superstition, it was personified, and said to have a considerable property in cattle. *Cailleach-vear* makes a conspicuous figure in the marvellous tales of the country people, over a  
great



great part of the West Highlands. Her residence was said to be on the highest mountains; that she could step with ease, and in a moment, from one district to another; when offended, that she caused a flood to come from the mountains, which destroyed the corns, and laid the low grounds under water; that one of these floods was the origin of Lochow, in Lorn, of Locheck, in this parish, and of many other lakes; that the people paid her a superstitious veneration, and were under dreadful apprehensions of her anger. It would be amusing to record the many marvellous traditions that prevail in the Highlands, which have an allegorical meaning, especially where the allegory can be easily traced. In the instance of *Cailleach-vear*, it is very obvious, *Be'ir* is the Gaelic for a thunderbolt. In the oblique cases, it is pronounced *Ve'ir*; as *Bein-ve'ir*, the name of a very high mountain in the parish of Appin, which signifies the *Mountain of Thunder*. Every thing said of *Cailleach-vear*, literally applies to the effects of thunder, which is doubly awful in the neighbourhood of high mountains; nor is it surprising that it should be personified and superstitiously dreaded in ages of ignorance. The mountains of Sierra Leona in Africa, which divide Nigritia from Guinea, were styled by the ancients, the mountains of God, on account of their being subject to thunder and lightning. The situation of *Cailleach-vear*, in Stralachlan, is much exposed to every storm. When a storm was accompanied with thunder, it may be easily supposed, that such as were tending herds or flocks around that stone, would be much alarmed, would run off, and leave their charge to the mercy of the person who was supposed to produce the storm. If any of the cattle were amissing, *Cailleach-vear* was accused of having seized upon them, and no further search was made.

On the same ridge of hills, about 8 miles to the eastward of *Cailleach-vear* a small conical hill rises considerably above  
the



the neighbouring hills. It is seen from Inverary, and from many parts at a great distance. It is called *Sien-Sluai*, the fairy habitation of a multitude \*. On the top of it, which is flat, ashes have been found, and bits of timber half burnt, within the area of a circular building, whose foundations can be easily traced. The area is now covered with moss of considerable depth. Tradition reports, and it is very likely, that it was one of those alarm-towers so frequent in the north of Scotland. There were chains of them on conspicuous high grounds from the west to the east coast. They were constantly watched when there were any apprehensions of the approach of an enemy. By kindling a fire or fires, the arrival of a hostile fleet on the coast, and even the number of the ships was announced, in a very short space of time, to the most distant corner of the kingdom.—There is an obelisk in the midst of a plain field, within 80 yards of Strachur-house, the residence of General Campbell of Strachur. About 15 years ago, when the General was building his house, there was a number of stones of different sizes about this obelisk. He was told that they were the remains of a druidical circle, and gave particular orders that none of the stones should be removed; on purpose, that any person conversant in antiquities might be enabled to trace the circle. The stones, however, were mostly taken away in the General's absence. It does not, however, appear, that this obelisk was any part of a druidical circle. It is most likely that it was erected as a memorial of the death of some man of eminence, who had been killed on that spot; a custom which was very prevalent in the Highlands. This obelisk is 10

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feet

\* A belief in fairies prevailed very much in the Highlands of old; nor at this day is it quite obliterated. A small conical hill, called *Sien*, was assigned them for a dwelling, from which melodious music was frequently heard, and gleams of light seen in dark nights.



feet in height. It is very nearly square, being 22 inches at the base, and tapering gradually towards the top, where it measures only 10 inches. Some old people remember 2 stones of the same appearance, one of them much larger than the one described; all within 300 or 400 yards of each other. By ploughing and digging the ground about them, they fell down, and were broken for the purposes of building.—There is a little round hill nigh the head of Locheck, called *Tom-a-chorachasich*, ‘the man’s hillock, whose legs were of unequal length.’ It is said, that a Prince of Denmark, whose party had been routed in an engagement on the coast, is buried in this hillock, where he had been overtaken by his pursuers, killed and interred. He is said to have been of gigantic stature. He is called ‘an Corrachasach mor mae Righ Lochlan;’ the great Corrachasach, son to the King of Denmark.

*Caves.*—A cave in the side of a hill, called *Tur-na’n calman*, ‘the fort of pigeons,’ in the farm of Invernaodin, is frequently visited. It is remarkable for the length of time a stone thrown in at the mouth of it, continues to tumble down with a remarkable noise, as if it were rolling over sheets of copper. There is another cave in a hill called *Carnach mhor*, so wide at the entrance as to admit 4 men a-breast; it then expands, furnishing an apartment, where 50 men in arms may stand without any inconveniency; then it becomes narrow, and in advancing, there is an apartment equally large with the first; and so on alternately, as far as it has been explored. There are a number of other smaller caves in the side of the same hill. A cave in the farm of Ballimore, in the face of a steep rugged rock, deserves only to be mentioned on account of a remarkable man who took up his residence in it, and whose name it bears. It is called *Uambachoro-laich*,



*laich*, 'the strange fellow's cave : ' It is said, that a man, unknown to any person, carried his wife and family into this cave, which is almost inaccessible ; that he supported them there, by preying on the neighbourhood ; that he avoided as much as possible being seen ; but that when his necessities obliged him to make his appearance, he struck the people with such awe and terror, that they refused him nothing ; that he never particularly oppressed any person ; that he left the country after he had reared his family.

*Woods.*—The woods consist of oak, ash, birch, alder, hazel, mountain ash, aspen and elm. Their value is known, having lately been cut and sold. A cutting of the whole would be worth L. 6000 Sterling. They are cut at the end of 20 years. A few of the oaks are reserved till the next cutting. The most healthy and thriving plants are pitched upon ; but though allowed to grow to the age of 40 or 60 years, they are not fit timber for large ships. They are bought for building boats, for couples and rafters, &c. to the houses of country people. The bark of the oak brings the greatest part of the money that is given for the woods. The birch, alder, and hazel are made into charcoal, for which there is a ready market. An English Company, who have erected a furnace on the opposite shore of Lochfine, for smelting iron ore, have a constant demand for it. There is also a demand for it from England. The grossest part of it is used for smelting the ore ; the smallest or dross for reducing the pig-iron to the proper state of that metal. The planting is not considerable. The little that is done in this way is only for ornament and shelter about gentlemen's houses. This, however, by degrees, will lead to plant, with a view of having useful timber. Orchards do not thrive



thrive well in this district. The trees promise well for a few years, but soon decay. It appears that not long ago, the face of the country was mostly covered with woods. It was then a great object to clear the ground of them; but this spirit has been carried too far, as there are many spots of ground which would make better returns to the landlord, if producing wood, than if pastured, besides their utility and ornament to the country.

*Population.*—By Dr Webster's reports, the numbers were 1193. In January 1783, there were 1061. Of whom were under 8 years of age, - - - 221  
 Above 8, unmarried, - - - 430  
 Widowers and widows, - - - 68  
 Married, - - - 342

The average number of marriages for 10 years back is 9 yearly; of baptisms 33. It is only within these 40 years that any register was kept, and for 28 of these not very regular. Till within 40 years, the population is said to have continued nearly the same for a long time back; since that period, it has decreased by a third, and is still decreasing. There are not now 1000 persons in the parish.—There are 12 weavers in the parish, who weave coarse cloths and linens, such as the country people wear. There is 1 mason, 3 carpenters; there are 2 blacksmiths, 5 tailors, 2 ferrymen, 2 innkeepers. The people are sober and industrious. No person from this parish has been tried for a crime, for many years back. They respect the laws, and pay due regard to their superiors, civil and ecclesiastical. They are all of the established religion, and very punctual in attending the service of the church.

*Agriculture,*



*Agriculture, &c.*—The parish contains about 39,000 acres, Scots measure, which is calculated from the number of square miles it amounts to. 700 acres, at present, are used for the purposes of agriculture: Little more than the half of which is annually in tillage. This computation is made from the quantity of grain sown, which is 312 bolls oats, 14 bolls bear, 126 bolls potatoes. The woods occupy 1500 acres; 36,800 are in pastures for horses, black cattle and sheep. The farms are very unequal in extent. There is one of L. 200 Sterling of rent; several about L. 100; some not more than L. 20. The proportion of arable land in each farm is small; the price of labour is high; the land unevenly, and of an inferior quality; the climate unfavourable for raising crops; a number of horses are required for the labour, which, through the greatest part of the year, are a dead stock on the hands of the farmer. These circumstances render the arable land of so little value, that in taking a farm, it is only looked upon as a conveniency, and a rent is only given in proportion to the number of cattle for which the farm can afford pasture. At an average, the pasture grounds may be valued at 13 d. the acre; but at this rate, the whole rent is laid on the grass grounds. There are in the parish 175 horses, 821 cows, 12,280 sheep. The average produce is 1092 bolls of oats, 613 bolls bear, and 1512 bolls of potatoes. The crops that are raised very nearly supply the inhabitants. About 100 bolls of imported meal are bought; but there is nearly an equivalent of bear, of meal and of potatoes, sold to distilleries in the neighbourhood. Upon comparing the number of inhabitants with the produce, it will appear that each person's share is very small; but a number of men and women leave the parish in summer and autumn, and go to public works; such as fishing, cutting wood, manufacturing barks, and harvest-work in the south of Scotland. The valued rent is L. 267 : 16 : 9 Sterling.



Sterling. The real rent is L. 2070 Sterling. Services from the tenants are almost totally abolished. The principal estates in the parish are freeholds. The lesser estates hold of the Duke of Argyle, to whom is paid a small feuduty. The parish is divided among 11 heritors; 6 of whom reside. The other have their residence close in the neighbourhood.—Donald Maclachlan, Esq; one of the Faculty of Advocates in Scotland, is principal heritor. His predecessors lived in a castle, which is still standing. It is a large building, nearly square. The height of the walls is 47 feet 3 inches. Its greatest length is 72 feet 4 inches. It is not precisely known when Castlelachlan was built. The tradition regarding it is, that it was built by a lady at a time her husband, the laird, was abroad, serving in one of the crusades. Mr Maclachlan seems resolved to keep the castle in such repair as it was in when he succeeded to it; but finding it inconvenient for a family residence, he has just now built a good modern house close by the castle. This house is situated in the middle of a plain, by the side of a small river. It fronts Lochfine, of which it commands a view for several miles. The hills, which have an unbroken surface and gentle slope, more than half surround the house, and shelter it from every wind, excepting the south-west. Certain spots on the declivity of the hills are planted with forest-trees; some of which are already in great forwardness. The variety of shades between them, and the natural wood will have a very fine effect in beautifying the place, which, for its extent, is much admired. Mr Maclachlan's estate lies in one continued stretch on the side of Lochfine. It is 11 miles in length, and at an average a mile and an half in breadth. His house is about the centre. The farms on the estate mostly border on Lochfine. The tenants houses are nigh the shore, where they have their arable grounds; their pasture lands reach to the summit of the hills



hills which separate the parish from Glendmule. He has more than the half of all the woods in the parish, which make a beautiful appearance viewed from the other side, or from Lochfine. The shade they afford, and the delicate flavour of a vast quantity of honeysuckle, which grows spontaneously among them, will be exceedingly refreshing to the traveller, when the line of road is completed, which is begun, and carrying on, down the side of Lochfine. The feelings they raise is like that of comfortable clothing in a bleak and cold country. There is no object in the Highlands more pleasant than gentle sloping hills, skirted with wood, and terminating in the sea. Such an object Mr Maclachlan's estate offers to the view through the greatest part of its extent.—Lieutenant-General Campbell, Colonel of the 57th regiment of foot, the present laird of Strachur, is also a residing heritor. His predecessors lived sometimes in Lochgoilhead, at a place called Ardgartan, where they had a large property, which still continues in the family; sometimes in different farms on their estate in this parish. They had a considerable property in the parish of Arroquhar, also in the Isle of Sky. This family is reckoned by some the most ancient of the name of Campbell. The late laird of Macfarlane, who, with great genius and assiduity, had studied the ancient history of the Highlands, was of this opinion. The patronymic name of this family was *Macarthur*, (the son of Arthur), which Arthur, the antiquary mentioned above, maintained, was brother to Colin, the first of the Argyle family, and that the representatives of the two brothers continued for a long time to be known by the names of *Macarthur* and *Maccaillein*, before they took the surname of Campbell. Another account makes Arthur the first laird of Strachur, to have descended of the family of Argyle, at a later period, in which the present laird seems to acquiesce, by taking, with a mark of cadetry,



detry, the arms and livery of the family of Argyle, after they had been quartered with those of Lorn. The laird of Strachur has been always accounted, according to the custom of the Highlands, chief of the *Clan Artuir*, (the Macarthurs), who, like other clans, followed their chief in predatory and warlike excursions, and whom he patronised and supported. Since the abolition of the jurisdiction, this system is exploded, and in a short time the existence of it will be totally forgotten. When the General succeeded to the estate of Strachur, the family-house was but small and incommodiously situated. He pitched on a large plain, on the borders of Lochfine, inclosed and surrounded it with planting. He formed his garden, consisting of 2 acres of ground, and fenced it with a high wall. It is now well stocked, and in excellent order. He has built an elegant large house, and a very complete court of offices, which, perhaps, exceed the proportion they should bear to the house. He has formed some beautiful walks through his inclosures, particularly on the banks of a small river, which runs through his pleasure-grounds. He is going on with the English method of farming, principally with a view to raise a sufficiency of green crops, which alone suit this climate. He has called his place Strachur-park; it is now a very great ornament to this part of the Highlands. It is only about 20 years since he began, and it is almost complete. It appears to the greatest advantage, viewed from the road that is carried down the opposite shore of Lochfine. A large bayson, which is formed by a curve of Lochfine, lies immediately before the principal front of the house. The other front commands a view of the whole pleasure grounds, and of the neighbouring hills, one of which appears from his windows in the figure of a cone of the most regular shape. In a bow which projects from the middle of this front, there is a drawing-room, having 3 large windows; opposite to



to one of the windows is the hill above described. There is a particular hill opposite to each of the other windows, not altogether of such a remarkable shape, but sufficient to attract particular notice. The General's tradesmen, his labourers, and even his crofters, have their houses built of stone and lime with slated roofs; these, an excellent inn, and the minister's house and offices, which are close to the General's house, contribute much to enliven the appearance of the place. Every thing about it has a new, neat, and finished look.

*Stipend, School, and Poor.*—Sir Alexander Campbell of Ardkinglass, Bart. and Donald Maclachlan, Esq; of Mac-lachlan, are patrons of the parish. They present to the living alternately. The stipends, by an interlocutor of the Court of Teinds, 8th December 1790, were appointed to be 7 chalders  $\frac{1}{2}$  boll of meal, and L. 231 : 6 : 8 Scots money, and that both for stipend and for furnishing the communion-elements. The glebe consists of 15 acres of very bad soil. The manse was built in 1780, and is rather above the size of the generality of clergymens houses. There are 2 churches in the parish, in which the minister officiates alternately. One of them is in Strachur, close to the manse; the other is in Stralachlan, 6 miles distant.—There are 2 parochial schools, 1 at each of the parish churches. The salary for both the schools is only L. 8 : 6 : 4 Sterling. 90 scholars, at an average, attend these schools during the winter and spring quarters. From 40 to 50, in summer and autumn. Reading, writing, arithmetic, and the principles of religion, are taught. There are other 2 schools in the parish, in districts discontiguous to the churches. The inhabitants of 2 or more farms join and employ a young man for teaching their children. They give him board and lodging alternately in their houses, and such wages as



they can agree for. At these other schools, there is about half the number of scholars that attend the parochial schools. Till within 10 years, there was a school in this parish supported by the Society for propogating Christian Knowledge. In giving a school to a parish, the Society always appoint the schoolmaster; and they make it a condition, that the parishioners furnish him *gratis* with a sufficient house, garden, grass and fodder for a cow, and as many dry peats as he may require. The man whom the Society sent last to this parish, was lame, old, and infirm, and being naturally peevish, the parishioners and he could not be mutually satisfied. He died in the service. The Society did not send a successor; and though the minister offered repeatedly to apply for one, the people would not consent to the burdens required by the Society, having formerly found them exceedingly troublesome. As the Society now have a handsome fund, it is to be hoped they will be more liberal.—The average number of poor in the parish is 20. Each of them get from 10 s. to 15 s. at an annual distribution of the funds. The poor consist of elderly persons, who, unable to earn a subsistence, go about and get alms from the inhabitants. If any of them are disabled from travelling about, there is a meeting of the heritors and session called, and such of the parishioners as choose to attend, in order to assess the parish for their support. Every plough of land pays a certain quantity of meal, and this is sent to the poor person's place of abode; besides, such a sum of money is sent out of the funds, as is thought sufficient to purchase any necessary of clothing or medicine. The fund at present is about L. 120 Sterling, which has been made up partly by donations, and partly by savings in plentiful years. The collections at the church-doors amount annually to about L. 14 Sterling. Many plans have been concerted by the Commissioners of



of Supply, and the Synod of Argyle, for preventing beggars from travelling about without the bounds of their respective parishes; but the prejudices of the people, in general, have been such a bar to these plans, that they have all proved ineffectual. No fine will prevent some people from giving alms to whoever asks it *for the love of God*. Though the master of a family should give strict orders against it, his orders will not be obeyed. The beggars take advantage of this prejudice, some from necessity, others from idle habits, will persist in going about. It is much to be wished for, that some criterion could be established, by which the truly necessitous could be known. But till that is clearly done, would it be proper to discourage giving alms? Seeing objects of distress, cherishes humane dispositions. Giving daily to the poor, nourishes habits of benevolence.

*Wages, &c.*—The price of labour is very high. It has risen very much within these 3 years. To this the following causes have contributed: 1. The cotton-manufactures, the printing and bleaching fields in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, have drained this parish of a number of workmen. 2. The herring which have appeared in Lochfine and other arms of the sea adjacent, have induced many of the best labourers to become fishers, an employment they prefer to any work that requires a continued exertion. 3. The extensive improvements carried on by General Campbell and others, have caused an uncommon demand for labourers.—The wages of a good labourer, from 1st March to 1st October, is 1 s. 2 d. a-day, for the rest of the year 1 s.; an ordinary labourer has 2 d. less. The wages of a good man servant, for farm work, when maintained in the family, is L. 7 Sterling, and 3 pair of shoes, worth 12 s.: Three times as much as it was 40 years ago. A maid servant,



vant, for common household or farm work, has L. 3 a-year, and 2 pairs of shoes, worth 6s. A labouring man, and whose wife has even a moderate share of industry, can maintain a family of 4 or 5 children in a very decent manner, and give them a suitable education. There is no instance of a labouring man being in indigent circumstances, when he and his wife are attentive, and desirous of employment. There are few parts of the kingdom where this class of men has more reason to be contented with their situation. There being no market contiguous, they lay in for their winter provision the half of a small cow or bullock, weighing from 10 to 12 stone Tron weight, or a proportionable quantity of mutton, and a store of herring. This, with potatoes, is their food for half the year. For the other half, they live on oat-meal, milk, and sometimes fresh herring. The potatoes, indeed, generally last three quarters of a-year. Such of them as have a milk cow, which most of them have, gather as much dung as enables them to raise a sufficient quantity of this useful root. The farmers always give them as much land as they can furnish manure for.

*Language.*—The Gaelic language is universally spoken in this parish. Many of the natives can speak no other language. The young people, from novelty, go for service to the south side of the Clyde, and learn the dialect of that country. This, with what they learn at school, enables them to understand the English language, and, in some measure, to speak it; but still their mother tongue is much more familiar to them. In their common conversation, whichever language they attempt, there is a mixture of the idioms and phrases of both. Let such as have a partiality for the Gaelic, commit it to writing, whilst yet its purity may be traced, and it will always afford pleasure



sure to the learned, to study a language so nervous, so original, and so well calculated to describe the customs, manners, and amusements of a people who, for so long a time, have withstood every kind of innovation.

*Disadvantages.*—The greatest disadvantage this parish labours under, is the difficulty and expense of procuring fuel. In general, peats are used. These are only got on the tops of the hills. The steepness of the hills renders the leading of them very troublesome. If coals could be got free of duty, very few peats would be made in the parish. The heritors and principal tacksmen burn coals chiefly. The duty on water-born coals is a great grievance to all Argyleshire, and a great bar to improvement. There is limestone in this parish, but the price of coals renders the lime so dear, that, as yet, it is little used in agriculture. The above grievance is felt the more, that in the neighbouring parishes of Lochgoilhead and Dunoon, they get coals free of duty, being situated on the side of the Clyde, and within the limits of the frith.

*Advantages.*—The advantage of being so nigh the Clyde, this parish enjoys in common with all the district of Cowal; butchers, from Greenock and Glasgow, come to the several farms to buy the cattle. The farmers have easy access to Greenock, where they have a ready market for whatever they have to dispose of, and where they can procure, and easily get home, whatever they may want for the use of their families. The herring which frequent Lochfine, are no doubt a great advantage to this district. A clear gain, amounting some years to L. 500 or L. 600 Sterling, arises from that fishery. But the fishing, especially when successful, has a great tendency to produce habits of idleness among the people. The method of catching herring pursued



pursued in Lochfine, requires only occasional exertions; for two-thirds of their time the fishers have nothing to do. The small tenants who follow the fishing cannot pay proper attention to their farms. The fishing generally begins in the month of July, and continues till Christmas. Each boat has 4 men. Each man furnishes his quota of nets and fishing apparatus. The owner of the boat gets a fifth part of the clear profits, which varies greatly, even when the fishing answers best. In one boat, each man's share of clear gain is from L. 12 to L. 15 Sterling, whilst in another the share does not amount to a sixth part of that sum. The successful and unsuccessful are, however, disposed to try it next season; the former, trusting to a continuation of his good luck; the latter, in hopes of better fortune. In the year 1788, 27 boats, and 108 men, from this parish, were employed. Since that period, the herring have not appeared in such quantities as to induce the people to make a business of the fishing. This fishing has given the people a relish for seafaring. When disappointed of the fishing at home, a number of the young men go as hands on board the smacks which are sent annually from the Clyde to fish among the western isles. A few of these continue sailors, and are employed in larger vessels that sail on distant voyages.

*Change produced by Sheep-Stocks.*—Within these last 30 years, especially since sheep-stocks have been introduced, it is remarked, that a number of people from this district have become sailors; but it appears, that necessity, and not choice, has been the cause. By joining together 2, 3, or more farms, and converting them into a sheep-walk, 12 or 16 tenants, with their families, were thrown out of their usual line of employment. The sea opened its arms to the young and active. Such of the elderly men as could labour,



bour, took cottaries, and wrought for hire. Many whole families emigrated to the manufacturing towns, where a change of climate and diet shortened the days of the old, and enervated the young. From the era of introducing sheep-stocks, a very great change is observable in the dispositions of the people. Till then, they shewed no predilection for a seafaring life. Till then, their sentiments were generally warlike. Round every fire-side, the entertainment of the evening was rehearsing tales of former times, the actions of brave men, the warlike feats of their ancestors. By such conversation, the young mind, fired with the spirit of great examples, eagerly panted after an opportunity of being signalized, by surmounting difficulties, by encountering dangers. Attachment to the chief, and a jealousy of his honour, were reckoned primary virtues. These were inculcated at an early period of life, they were strengthened by habit, they prevailed universally. When the chief, or any of his family stepped forward to serve in the army, all the young men readily followed him, as their fathers had done on similar occasions \*.—The district is now thinned of its inhabitants. The people have been forced to leave their native hills. Such as have gone have changed their manners, and the old spirit of the Highlander

\* Instances of this are well remembered, when the 42d regiment was first raised, and particularly when the Heirs of Ardkinglass and Strachur were appointed officers in Lord Loudon's regiment in 1745. Though it was not then the mode to make the officers commissions depend upon raising a certain quota of men, yet the two young gentlemen got most of their company, who followed them as volunteers, from their paternal estates. How different the sentiments of the people in 1778! When it was proposed to raise a Western Fencible Regiment, the gentlemen of Argyleshire engaged to furnish a certain number of men; but though the men had an express promise from Government, that they should not be called out of the kingdom, nor even into England, excepting in case of an invasion, the heritors were obliged to bribe them high.



Highlander is extinguished in those that remain. The sheep have banished the men. Where, in 12 or 16 families, a hardy race was reared, ever ready to repel an enemy, and gain glory to their country, an opulent tacksmen, with a shepherd or two, occupy the lands. Their conversation is not of former times. New plans of tending their sheep, and improving their wool, occupy their thoughts, and engage their attention. In short, the character of the Highlanders will soon be forgot. To know what it was, recourse must be had to Sir John Dalrymple's Memoirs, at his entering on the transactions of Lord Dundee; or to the Sketch drawn of it by the Abbe Raynal, in speaking of the settlers in North Carolina. And who can read these, without regretting that he has no opportunity, in his own country, of seeing the originals? The Highlanders of old did not live either in plenty or in elegance, yet they were happy. They piqued themselves on their capacity of enduring hunger and fatigue. They were passionately fond of music and of poetry. The song and the dance soon made them forget their toils. The sound of the bagpipe is now seldom heard. With the modes of life that nourished it, the vein for poetry has also disappeared. The deer have fled from the mountains. A forest, in the close neighbourhood of this parish, where several hundreds of them roamed at pleasure, is now converted into a sheep-walk.

*Villages.*—A military spirit prevails much among the gentlemen of this country; they would wish to keep the men; but their lands give so much more rent by stocking them with sheep, that they cannot withstand the gain. The numbers who emigrate yearly to the south of Scotland, and to foreign countries, is matter of serious regret to every person interested in the Highlands. To prevent this evil, fishing villages are building on the north-west coast; and



and liberal contributions have been made for encouraging people to settle in them. This plan, however, does not promise success. It is upon too extensive a scale. The strong local attachment of the Highlanders has not been attended to. By the plan of these villages, they will be at too great a distance from each other. It is expected that people will come to them for 60 miles round or upwards. This will not take place. If a Highlander is forced or induced to leave the small circle which occupied his first affections, he cares not how far he goes from home. Going to another parish, or to the district of another clan, is to him entire banishment; and when he has resolved to set out, whether from necessity or choice, he would as soon cross the Atlantic as he would cross an arm of the sea. It is only an immediate and a very clear advantage that would induce him to stop. The fishing villages have not this to offer. It is only in the course of a series of years, that the settlers have a prospect of being comfortable. To keep the people from emigrating, villages must be frequent, their prejudices must be attended to, and encouragement held out to them to settle in the close neighbourhood of their original homes; and here it will be found that very moderate advantages will satisfy them.

*Hint for Improvements.*—When 3 or 4 farms are thrown into one possession, and converted into a sheep-walk, and of course a number of families obliged to remove, let a farm in the neighbourhood be pitched upon, where fuel is convenient, where part of the lands is arable, and where there is a track of ground capable of cultivation; let it be inclosed, and subdivided; let houses be built, and the people will flock to it. They cannot at first pay much rent; but by degrees, as they improve the land, and get into the way of other employments, they will be enabled



fully to indemnify the landlord for his expences. Where such a situation can be had on the sea-coast, the village will do well. The landlord ought to encourage some manufacture of wool or cotton, to furnish employment for the wives and children of the villagers. If this plan were followed, emigration would never be thought of, the population of the Highlands would be found not to decrease; useful hands would be got at a call, for every kind of labour; servants got at moderate rates, for the purposes of agriculture or tending flocks; and what remains of the spirit and manners of the ancient Highlanders, for a length of time, be preserved.—Mr Maclachlan has begun a village on his property in this parish. It promises exceedingly well. It is from his plan, and its successful appearance, that the above hints are suggested.—If the sums to be expended on the fishing villages, were distributed in premiums to the heritors in the Highlands, for building villages, in proportion to the number of people supported in each, every purpose proposed by the Society, who have begun the fishing villages, would be effectually answered. The State would be strengthened by sea and by land. Ought not the State to encourage this scheme?

END OF VOLUME FOURTH.



## A P P E N D I X.

THE following particulars respecting the parish of KILMALCOLM, (No. XXXVI.) were transmitted by the Minister since the account was printed. (See page 274.)

*Name.*—It is supposed by some, that the name of this parish is compounded of the Gaelic word *Kil*, which signifies a burying ground, and the name *Malcolm*, and consequently that it was the burial place, of some distinguished person of that name, in former times.

*Improvements.*—The most remarkable piece of improvement in this parish is by Dr Molleson of Port-Glasgow, on the farm of Bradefield, in the estate of Finlayson and neighbourhood of Port-Glasgow. Upon this farm he has built an elegant house, from which there is a beautiful prospect of the Clyde, the town and shire of Dumbarton, an extensive view of Argyleshire, the high road leading from Glasgow to Greenock, the towns and harbours of Greenock and Port-Glasgow, &c. He has judiciously subdivided and inclosed the lands, with thorn hedges, and belts of planting. Though of a shallow soil, it now yields plentiful crops of oats, barley, beans and grass of various kinds. His garden produces the plants and flowers common in the climate; and he raises many from foreign countries, which are useful in the line of his profession. These improvements do much honour to his judgment and taste. The lands were in a state of nature within these 30 years.























Sinclair, John, Sir, 1754-1835

The statistical account of Scotland drawn up from the communication of the  
ministers of the different parishes

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